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GENERAL SIR O'MOORE CREAGH
V.C., G.C.B., G.C.S.I.

THE VOLUNTEER TRAINING CORPS HANDBOOK



BY

F. A. M. WEBSTER

Formerly of the 2nd (Herts.) V.B. Beds. Regt.,
and late R.F.A. (T.)

Regimental Commandant, 1st and 2nd V.B. Wandsworth
Regt. (V.T.C.)

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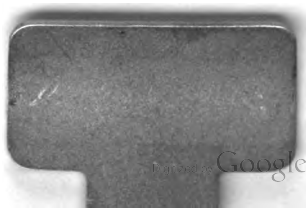
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THE VOLUNTEER TRAINING CORPS HANDBOOK

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THE VOLUNTEER TRAINING CORPS HANDBOOK

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COMMANDING WANDSWORTH REGIMENT, V.T.C.
FORMERLY OF THE 2ND (HERTS.) V.B.
BEDFORDSHIRE REGIMENT AND LATE
ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY (T.)

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
GENERAL SIR O'MOORE CREAGH
V.C., G.C.B., G.C.S.I.

MILITARY ADVISER TO THE CENTRAL ASSOCIATION
V.T.C.; LATE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF
THE ARMY IN INDIA

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1915

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED
TO
GENERAL SIR O'MOORE CREAGH,
V.C., G.C.B., G.C.S.I.

IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION OF THE
GREAT WORK HE HAS DONE FOR
THOSE BRITONS WHO, ALTHOUGH UN-
ABLE TO GO TO THE FRONT, YET WISH
TO BE TRAINED FOR HOME DEFENCE

INTRODUCTION .

THE ordinary Englishman, in his enthusiasm for our Regulars and the Territorial Army, tends to forget the fact that we also possess a large body of men either over the military age or unable for good and sufficient reasons to enlist. In the last six months, such men—to the number of hundreds of thousands—have voluntarily formed themselves into corps and undergone military instruction. Similar Volunteer Training Corps are still in process of formation all over the country.

This book, I am sure, will be of great value both to corps about to be formed, and to the members of existing corps. But above and beyond that, it is to be hoped that it will induce others, who may be incapacitated by age or circumstances, to offer themselves as members to their local Volunteer Training Corps, in order that they may take their share in the defence of the country should occasion arise. In such an event the guerilla warfare

that would necessarily follow would be best waged by men with local knowledge, and that knowledge is obviously most easily acquired by local men under expert military instruction.

Incidentally, also, these Volunteer Training Corps have been shown to provide means of recruiting for Lord Kitchener's army, either directly by sending men thither, or indirectly by shaming laggards into action.

There is, therefore, every reason for welcoming any means that tends to the promotion of such corps, and to their proper training in military affairs.

O'MOORE CREAGH.

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THE VOLUNTEER TRAINING CORPS HANDBOOK

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY

No reader of this book will require to be told the reason why there has lately sprung up throughout the country a volunteer force of some two million men—mostly civilians to whom fighting and the whole science of war was previously a strange, possibly a repugnant, business. Suffice it that such a number of men, debarred by one reason or another from giving their whole services to the Regular Army or Territorial Force, have formed themselves into thousands of local corps, and for six months have devoted all their spare time to acquiring at least the elements of military proficiency. And now that a Central Association has come into being for the express purpose of affiliating and controlling these Volunteer Training Corps, matters have reached a point at which, I earnestly hope, the informa-

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tion and suggestions contained in the following pages will be of interest and use, not only to the officers and N.C.O.'s, but to every volunteer, and not only to Volunteer Training Corps already formed, but also to those about to materialize. I would here point out that the suggestions put forward are my own ideas, and must not be taken as authoritative rulings or directions from the Central Association V.T.C.

With these objects in view, let us for a moment glance back over the past six months, and consider the conditions under which the present Volunteer Training Corps were mostly created. The patriotism and enterprise of local civilians must be given their due; in many cases the committees of sports clubs of various kinds took upon themselves the formation of corps, framed a rough code of rules, collected subscriptions, and began to recruit, and then either invited a local military man to take command or elected a Commanding Officer from amongst their own members. Naturally enough, in some quarters there arose sooner or later a dispute as regards the single, dual, or joint control by the military or civilian parties, or both. Luckily, in the majority of cases good sense and good feeling prevented serious discord; but the institution of the Central Associa-

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tion Volunteer Training Corps led to all affiliated corps becoming duly authorized military bodies. Therefore, in such instances, the Commandant is responsible in every way and for everything. In most corps the Commandant has the control of military matters, and military matters only, which he runs in consultation with his Headquarters Staff—the composition of which will be given later. But in many cases the final word, particularly as to expenditure, lies in the hands of the civilian committee. This, of course, puts the Commanding Officer in a difficult and delicate position, for not unnaturally the men look to him, as do also the powers that be, and it is on his head the blame will fall if anything goes wrong. But, at the same time, civilians are frequently better put in charge of finance.

It must be remembered that in the early days an enormous amount of work, such as recruiting, arranging for drill-grounds, instructors, use of miniature ranges, etc., was done by the civilian committees; but now it only remains to settle up such questions as enrolment under the War Office Regulations, purchase of uniforms, kit, and equipment, and their functions are finished.

Any man with Service experience will agree that it is impossible to carry on a military organization as one would do a cricket club, for

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example; yet what is to be done? The movement owes so very much to the civilian committees that it would be a shameful thing to allow them simply to fade away, their purpose nobly fulfilled, and take their places in the ranks with the newest joined recruit. I would therefore suggest that they take an active part in the work by qualifying as quartermasters, quartermaster-sergeants, and company quartermaster sergeants; there are also numerous duties in connection with the orderly-room which provide useful and interesting work.

There is another way of looking at it: the powers that be will recognize one responsible officer, and one only, who is to be answerable for the efficiency and conduct of the corps; this, of course, is the Commandant. But it must be remembered that the men who join these corps pay a subscription, and they may not care to have all the funds under the control of one man.

So far as I can see, there is only one way out of the difficulty, and that is for the Commandant to have absolute control over all military matters (that is a *sine qua non*), but he should also be chairman of the committee.

This virtually gives him a controlling vote, and allows him a greater contentment in

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accepting his responsibilities from the Central Association Volunteer Training Corps. Personally, I am also of the opinion that the military element should be further represented in the government of the corps by the Adjutant, field officers, company commanders, and battalion sergeant-major.

In many cases, of course, the civil committee will be found superfluous, and the corps will be run just on the same lines as a Territorial regiment ; but in any case, as the Commandant is the responsible officer, it is obvious that all matters must go before him for his sanction.

The question of subscription is one of great importance. Many corps have started off with a subscription of 2s. 6d. per annum, but this is not enough to allow the unit to be trained efficiently ; 2s. 6d. a quarter would be a fairer rate, and surely no one should mind so small a sum as that, for I am sure there is not one man but feels he would give a great deal to feel that he really is serving the country in a useful capacity.

A few further considerations must be taken into account before proceeding to detail. In the first place, it is obvious that the syllabus of training, as laid down by the War Office textbooks, is not applicable to the Volunteer Corps,

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inasmuch as the War Office syllabus is designed to meet the requirements of the regulars and full-time soldiers, whereas the Volunteers, with the best will in the world, can seldom devote to military duties more than an hour a day, with Saturday afternoons and the whole day on Sundays. Again, no matter how greatly the Commandant may deplore it, it is not necessary that the men of the Volunteer Training Corps should attain that high standard of perfection in barrack-square drill which is reached by, say, the Guards. On the other hand, it is of the most vital importance that a sufficient amount of drill should be taught to render the units easy to handle in the field, for the commander who cannot move his troops from point to point and from one formation to another without delay and confusion is likely to suffer heavy casualties in actual warfare.

Next, it must be remembered that many of the men serving in the Volunteer Training Corps are of such an age that it is doubtful if they could stand the strain of long forced marches and fierce bayonet charges. This brings us to the consideration of the class of fighting in which these men might possibly be employed, and also the ways in which they are peculiarly adapted to such fighting.

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With these matters I have dealt in detail elsewhere; suffice it, therefore, to say here that the Volunteer Training Corps, if ever they are used, will be called upon for the most difficult work of holding and hampering the advance of a strong, well-armed foe, but one who will undoubtedly be deficient both in cavalry and artillery, but who will be abundantly furnished with infantry, cyclists and technical troops.

In the primary stages of the possible invasion of this country by an expeditionary force, it will be of the greatest importance for the officer commanding the defending forces to have early and accurate information of the enemy's dispositions within the concentration area, and this is just where the local units of the Volunteer Training Corps should prove themselves indispensable to the regular officer in command of the defence.

It is not my purpose to go into the terms of the War Office letter to Lord Desborough here—that I shall do presently; but what I do wish to point out very clearly is that General Sir O'Moore Creagh, V.C., the Military Adviser to the Central Association Volunteer Training Corps, has stated that the "corps are intended for internal defence, and are liable to be called to any or all parts of the United Kingdom as

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necessity for this may arise; that is to say, . . . in case of raid or invasion."

It is most fortunate that the Military Adviser, duly approved by the War Office, has told us that there is this liability, for without some liability of this sort, I, for one, should have felt that it was playing at soldiers. It is therefore both encouraging and gratifying to feel that there is a responsibility and liability for service in case of invasion which is identical with that of the man who joins the Territorial Force for home service only.

To the man who thinks a little it will at once be obvious that if the enemy succeed in effecting a landing on these shores the brunt of the first delaying fight must fall on whatsoever troops happen to be in the neighbourhood, and on the local units of the Volunteers. I would therefore urge Commandants of coastwise units to arm and uniform their men with the least possible delay, and to give them such a training in field-work over their own countryside, as will not leave a road, lane, or field-path unknown to them; in other words, insist that officers, N.C.O.'s, and men alike make a thorough study of the topography of their own particular locality.

This point—of *studying local conditions* and the characteristics of the countryside—cannot be

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too strongly emphasized, for on the knowledge that the Volunteers possess of their homeland will depend much of the success or failure of our defence.

Looked at simply from the standpoint of military tactics, it is a very debatable point whether the attack or the defence is more favoured by fighting in an enclosed country such as ours. At first blush one would instantly say the defender, because he can choose his position and may even have time to improve the natural facilities it affords for cover and concealment; but let us pause a moment and consider this matter.

In the first place the task of the defender in enclosed country is a most nerve-racking and fatiguing one, for he will never see the enemy until he is right upon him. The longer that troops are kept on the defensive, the harder will it be for the Commanding Officer to get his men to make a successful counter-attack. For troops quickly acquire a habit, and if they are kept on the defensive too long or are retired too frequently, the time will come when it will be a physical impossibility for them to change their tactics and advance; in other words, the men will acquire the "defensive habit," and cannot be got to assume the "offensive habit."

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The attacker, on the other hand, has a great advantage in that the *morale* of his men is preserved because they are enabled to advance in concealment, and often under cover. As we should most certainly be compelled to act on the defensive for a time, at any rate, in case of invasion, it behoves us to ascertain how we can counteract the enemy's advantage in attacking. This can only be accomplished by having a thorough knowledge of the ground, so that there is no road, lane, or field-path by which they can approach without encountering our reconnoitring patrols, sentry groups, and pickets.

The value of local knowledge is by no means confined purely to the actual defensive fighting, for we must make the foeman fight—aye, and fight hard—for every mouthful of food he eats and every hoof he commandeers for transport; and here, again, a knowledge, of how and where local stock and provisions are disposed, will greatly aid our scheme.

Again, as I have pointed out at length elsewhere, it is most unlikely that the men of the Volunteer units will be subjected to shock action, except against infantry, for our country is but badly suited to the manœuvring of cavalry with either facility or success.

Finally, I would point out that this class of

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warfare entails living on the land—not a difficult matter with a friendly country behind one, but the very deuce for the enemy, if the countryside has been well driven and all stores destroyed ; it also entails sleeping out under the stars of heaven night after night, in every kind of weather, good, bad, or indifferent. It, moreover, means that troops will have to move—and move quickly, too—from place to place, for guerilla warfare ever needs a mobile fighter. The obvious conclusion is that men of the Volunteers must be able to kill, dress, and cook their own meat, to build their own huts or temporary bivouacs,* and they must learn to travel with their wardrobe in a haversack, for no transport for food or stores will be available or, for that matter, advisable.

* For hints on bivouacking, scouting, camping, etc., see " Britain's Territorials," pp. 163-192.

CHAPTER II

THE CORPS—STARTING BUSINESS

IN forming a corps the first and most important matter is to get a Commanding Officer who really does know his work. An ignorant or amateurish Commandant will do endless harm by giving the men a feeling that they know more about the job than he does; and if these corps are ever called up for active service, the men will have no confidence in him, and, worse still, he may bring disaster upon other units by failing to comprehend the orders passed to him by superior authority.

After the services of an efficient Commanding Officer have been obtained, the next thing is to find a place suitable for headquarters, and in these stirring and patriotic times it will be a strange thing if a local property owner cannot be found who will place a house or cottage at the disposal of the corps.

This house may be furnished by pieces of furniture lent by members of the corps, and if

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it is a fairly large building, the rooms should be utilized as follows :

Orderly - room, lecture - room, officers' and N.C.O.s' rooms, medical officer's room, waiting-room, library and map-room. All the rooms speak for themselves as to their purpose, except perhaps the library and map-room. This room should contain a good supply of military works and maps, maps of the present war kept pinned up to date with flags, and also maps of Britain, and especially of that particular district in which the corps has its being.

So much for headquarters. Next comes the question of drill-halls and parade-grounds, and this, of course, is largely a matter of the size of the corps and where it is situated.

If it is a full battalion of four double companies, then there should be four drill-halls. These may be anything from a fair-sized school gymnasium up to a large motor garage or skating-rink.

The use of a large central ground is necessary for battalion drills. To anticipate for one moment, on this ground the battalion is fallen in by the battalion sergeant-major, who reports to the Adjutant, who gives the order "Fall in the officers," and reports all correct to the Commandant.

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When the battalion is to be dismissed, the Commandant orders "Fall out the officers," and when this is done the battalion is dismissed by the battalion sergeant-major.

Having now got a Commanding Officer, headquarters, drill-halls, and parade-grounds, the next thing is to get the recruits and suitable people, with military knowledge, to instruct them. But before anything further can be done, certain important appointments should be made from the number of old soldiers who have eagerly come forward to offer their services: these are the Adjutant, Quartermaster, battalion sergeant-major, and orderly-room clerk. These appointments and arrangements will, of course, be governed by the number of recruits to a large extent. Having got so far, the services of a couple of local doctors should be requisitioned to act as medical officers and examine the recruits.

The enrolment of recruits may now be proceeded with. As to the form they should sign, I will deal with that later on, and also with good and sufficient reasons which entitle a man of under thirty-eight to serve in a Volunteer Training Corps.

As the recruits are enrolled, each one should be given a regimental number and allotted to a

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squad for squad drill under a selected instructor. If there is a sufficiency of competent instructors, the squads should be kept small; twelve to twenty-four are convenient numbers.

All men of over nineteen and under thirty-eight years of age should be seen by the Commandant or Adjutant in person, their reasons for not joining the Regular or Territorial forces should be carefully noted *and verified*; in cases of doubt the application should be sent on to the Central Association Volunteer Training Corps, whose decision in the matter will be absolutely final. When the Long Roll is complete the district recruiting officer should be invited to visit Headquarters for the purposes of inspecting it. If a man of military age puts forward the excuse that he is physically unfit, he should be examined by the medical officer to the corps, and if he is not absolutely satisfied that the man really is unfit, then he should be asked to offer himself at the nearest recruiting depot.

The early stages of training are important as having a great bearing on the after-life of the soldier; too much attention cannot therefore be paid to detail in the early stages, and recruits should start off with the turnings by numbers and slow marching, etc. ("Infantry Training," 1914, Sections 12 to 46 inclusive).

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Having advanced thus far, the recruit is given a rifle, or a dummy rifle if the real article is not available, and learns squad drill with arms ("Infantry Training," 1914, Sections 47 to 74 inclusive).

In addition, a course of physical exercises should be undergone by each recruit.

A man of average intelligence who is keen on the work should become thoroughly proficient in squad drill in six or eight weeks if he attends drill for one hour every evening; and once having mastered the preliminary work—which, incidentally, is the groundwork of all his future military training—it is time to post him to a company, but as in the case assumed all are recruits, it will be time to form the companies.

Now comes a difficult task for the regimental Commandant—*i.e.*, the selection of company commanders, who should be men of experience, well up in their work, and with any amount of tact. Having the company commanders appointed, platoon sergeants and section commanders may be appointed on probation, and later on platoon commanders should be selected. And now each company commander is responsible for the training of his own company, and he will in due course see that each of his four

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platoons is instructed separately, but under his own personal supervision.

Now, the training of sections and platoons is to fit them to take their place in the company ; similarly the company training should be sufficiently exhaustive to bring the unit to that state of efficiency in which it will be readily and easily handled by the Battalion Commandant in the field or on the parade-ground. As much of the company drill is merely squad drill on a larger scale, the company commander should devote a good deal of the time at his disposal to field-work rather than to barrack-square drill.

In work with a company so very much depends on the capabilities of the company commander and the keenness of the men that it is hard to assign a period in which a company can be got to a fit state of efficiency to take its place in the battalion ; but given a fair average of tact, intelligence, and ability all round, another six or eight weeks should justify the Battalion Commandant in getting into his saddle to take the first battalion drill.

Of course, there will be cursings and heart-burnings. A company officer who was word perfect but yesterday in every order known, cannot remember a single thing because he

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is so infernally nervous. Another company commander would have backed his "boys" against the Guards themselves, and yet they wander about like a flock of sheep and cannot be got to understand a single order. And here the Commanding Officer himself must tread a little warily; too easy forgiveness of these faults will do rather more harm than over-severity. *He has got to know his company commanders, and treat them accordingly.* With one man he may use the most expressive abuse, and be all the better liked for it; with another the same thing would bring an instant resignation. And herein lies half the secret of command: always know your subordinates a little better than they know themselves, and humour them without letting them know that you are doing so.

At the same time a firm hand is necessary, and a man who is "buying leave to shirk" must be resolutely checked, as must also the talking subaltern who always knows a little more about everything than the next man to him. This, however, is a sure sign of extreme youthfulness or a weak brain, and need not be worried over. A *pukka* man never minds acknowledging it when he is wrong.

Let us now consider the procedure when a

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battalion drill is ordered, suppose we say, for three o'clock in the afternoon.

All the companies should be formed up in mass, as shown in the accompanying sketch, a few minutes before the actual hour ordered for battalion drill.

At three o'clock sharp the Commandant will ride upon the parade-ground, and the battalion sergeant-major will call the battalion to attention, and report to the Adjutant, who falls-in the officers and reports to the Commanding Officer. Thereafter the battalion drill will be carried out. Finally, the officers will fall out at the order of the Commanding Officer, and the battalion will be dismissed by the battalion sergeant-major.

I should here like to point out that at least three officers should be mounted for battalion drill—that is to say, the Commandant, Second in Command, and Adjutant. For these officers to attempt to drill a battalion on foot is sheer folly, and a practice which must be unhesitatingly condemned, as it is bound in the long run to impair the efficiency of the corps.

As to several other points, I am of the opinion that the Regimental or Battalion Commandant should give a lecture to all officers and N.C.O.'s at least once a week; company commanders

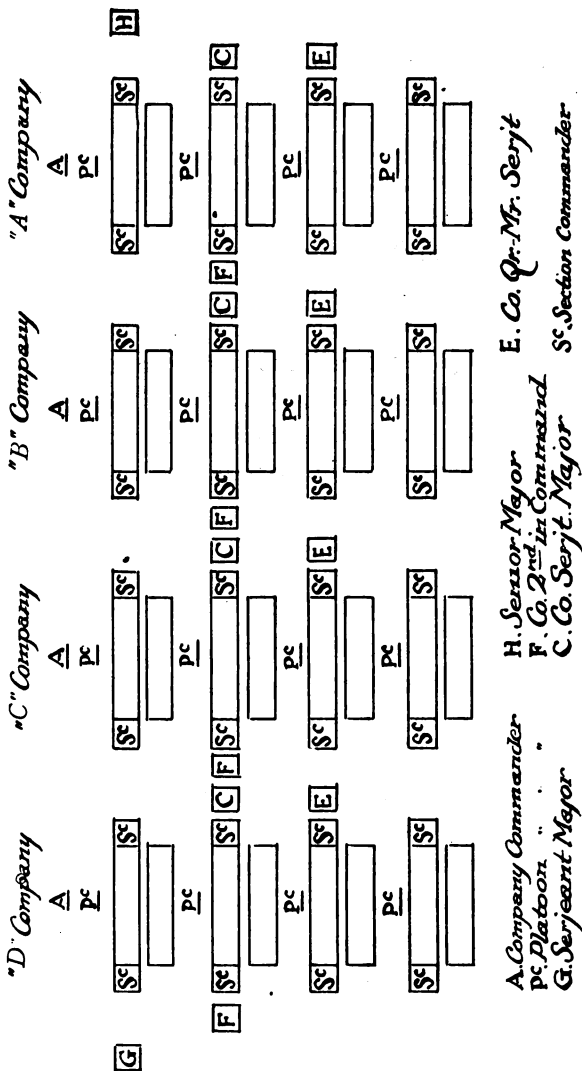


FIG. 1.—THE BATTALION IN MASS.

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should also lecture to their junior officers and all N.C.O.'s once a week, and there should be a communicating drill for N.C.O.'s under the company sergeant-major also once a week.

I am also of the opinion that on long route marches all field officers who are mounted should put a bugler or orderly up on their horses, and march with the men, to whom it is a decided encouragement. Moreover, Commandants should never order their men to perform a task too arduous for themselves to undertake.

A very good motto is, "Play the game by your men, and your men will play the game by you."

At this stage it will be as well to detail the composition of a battalion, and as the greater contains the less, according to Euclid, the details will be of equal interest to those units which contain only a company or even a platoon.

The figures given are as set out in "War Establishments, Part I., Expeditionary Force, 1914," by which I understand the Central Association Volunteer Training Corps wish the corps to be guided. It should be noted that for administrative purposes the battalion headquarters, except the Commandant, Sub-Commandant, Adjutant, and Quartermaster, are to be posted to

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companies as supernumeraries to the establishment of platoons.

As regards the machine-gun section, which is also independent of the establishment of companies, I know that it is impossible for Volunteer Training Corps to get these weapons at the moment, but one must live in hopes for the future, and I therefore strongly advise Commandants to requisition carts, and improvise a couple of dummy guns on tripods, in order that a machine-gun section may be formed, and the men taught their numbers at the guns and their duties in the field. The time may come when the Volunteer Training Corps will draft more men into the Army proper even than is being done now, and then the men who have a rudimentary knowledge of machine-gun work will score heavily, and will thank their Commandants for what has been taught to them.

A Volunteer Training Corps Battalion is composed of headquarters, four companies, and machine-gun section, made up in detail as follows :

I.—HEADQUARTERS.

- 1 Battalion Commandant.
- 1 Battalion Second in Command (Sub-Commandant).
- 1 Adjutant.
- 1 Quartermaster.

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- 1 Transport Officer (a subaltern detailed from establishment).
- 1 Battalion sergeant-major.
- 1 Quartermaster-sergeant.
- 1 Orderly-room clerk.
- 1 Sergeant drummer.
- 1 Sergeant cook.
- 1 Sergeant shoemaker.
- 1 Transport sergeant.
- 11 Drivers.
- 6 Bâtmén.
- 1 Pioneer sergeant.
- 10 Pioneers.
- 1 Sergeant signaller.
- 1 Corporal signaller.
- 15 Signallers, of whom 7 may rank as lance-corporals.
- 16 Stretcher-bearers.
- 1 Medical officer.
- 2 Orderlies for medical officer.
- 1 Armourer.
- 4 Drivers A.S.C.
- 5 R.A.M.C. to be trained for water duties.

II.—COMPANY.

- 1 Company commander.
- 1 Second in command.
- 4 Platoon commanders.
- 1 Company sergeant-major.
- 1 Company quartermaster-sergeant.
- 4 Platoon sergeants.
- 4 Spare sergeants.
- 2 Buglers.
- 2 Drummers.

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10 Corporals.
188 Privates.
3 Drivers.
6 Bâtmén.

III.—MACHINE-GUN SECTION.

1 Machine-gun commander.
1 Machine-gun sergeant.
1 Machine-gun corporal.
12 Privates.
2 Drivers.
1 Bâtmán.

TOTAL.

Headquarters (attached A.S.C. drivers not reckoned)	...	81
4 companies	... ..	908
Machine-gun section	...	18
		<hr/>
		1,007

[NOTE.—In view of the fact that one seldom, if ever, gets all the men enrolled on parade, it will be as well to keep the special services, such as signallers, stretcher-bearers, and gun team, rather over than under strength.]

Now, each company is divided into four platoons, numbered 1 to 16 throughout the battalion, and each platoon is divided into four sections, numbered 1 to 16 throughout the company.

Normally, a section should number six files

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—that is to say, twelve men, a certain number of whom may be lance-corporals.

Let us now consider for one moment the working and interworking of this system of division and subdivision. If we work from the company unit I think we shall get the clearer understanding, for although training is virtually divided into two stages after the recruits' course has been completed—*i.e.*, company training and battalion (or larger unit) training—it is necessarily the company commander who will have the training of the lesser component parts, which in due course will form the perfect whole in the hands of the Regimental or Battalion Commandant.

Right away we can say that the normal fire unit in modern warfare is the section ; therefore every facility must be afforded to section commanders to exercise their sections independently, but under the supervision of the platoon commander (four sections form a platoon) or higher authority, the point about this being that, on active service, in enclosed country such as ours, scheme the Commanding Officer never so wisely, his units will get split up and away from his control. It is therefore of the first importance that the men holding small commands should be so trained as to develop a ready initiative and to gain self-confidence,

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wherefore "superior authority" must act rather in the direction of instruction to subordinate commanders than by giving the instruction to the men direct.

It must be obvious that, in a battalion of a thousand men or more, it is impossible for the Commanding Officer to know every man even by sight; but this is not the case with the section commander, who should know every man personally and well. Nor is it sufficient for him to know the men generally and by name; he must know each man individually, his peculiarities, possibilities, and limitations. After all, the section commander has, at the most, twelve men to deal with; surely, then, it is not too much to expect that he will take an intelligent interest in them, and see that they really do get to know their work? In battle the section commander not only controls the fire; he also chooses the object to be fired at, gives the range (as he judges it), observes the effect, and corrects mistakes. (See p. 70 for example.)

The platoon commander will take on and train his platoon after the section commanders have done their work, and taken the rough edges off the raw material. It may here be pointed out that the platoon commander has an important function to fulfil, for even in the

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most enclosed country he should not lose touch with the four sections entrusted to his care, and the fire of these four sections he should control much as a battery commander controls and directs the fire of his four (Territorial) or six (Regular) Horse (or Field) Artillery guns.

Now we come to the company commanders, who, in point of fact, are the people who make or mar a battalion, for the company is the principal training unit in the battalion, and must be absolutely self-contained. Each company commander makes arrangements for the continuous training of his men throughout the year. He sees that his second in command, platoon and section commanders, are all thoroughly efficient; and not only that, for he sees that each responsible officer and N.C.O. is duplicated, so that a place can be taken instantly if one falls sick or becomes a casualty.

All training should, however, be carried out under the supervision of the Commandant, field officers, and Adjutant.

Let us review the system of training suggested, bearing always in mind the fact that the men to be trained are of a high standard of intelligence, in the main, and are eager to learn.

On joining a corps, a man should be posted to the recruit squad, which should, if possible, be

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commanded by an ex-Regular drill instructor; or if this is not possible, then by a highly efficient N.C.O. It is a mistake to think that a man who is himself little more than a beginner can undertake this work, for on the preliminary recruit training depends much of the success and efficiency of the trained soldier. Therefore, the instructor of recruits should be carefully selected; he should have an infinite amount of patience and tact; he should also be gifted with such a word of command as will make the men spring to their work with smartness and alacrity.

After the recruit course is passed and the "Johnny Raws" are drafted to the companies, the company commanders should see that the platoon and section commanders have ample opportunities for handling their units independently; he may then exercise his company as a whole before it takes its place in the battalion, which is the normal infantry, self-contained fighting unit the world over.

It is not sufficient for the company commander to exercise his men merely in barrack-square drill; he must get them out into the open country for instruction in field operations, entrenching, etc. With the detailed scheme of training and instructions I will deal separately later on.

The battalion as a whole is simply one large

Starting Business

family, operating and thinking together for one purpose, and controlled absolutely by the Battalion Commandant, who is responsible for the training and efficiency of his command, finance, care of arms and ammunition, clothing and equipment, housing and feeding when the Volunteer Training Corps are mobilized or on manœuvres. He is responsible for all orders given to the battalion, and all orders received from a higher authority are addressed to him, and to him are responsible the company commanders for the training and well-being of their units. The Battalion Commandant also deals with all cases of "crime" (I use the word "crime" advisedly for every offence in the Service, whether it be losing a cap badge or striking a superior officer, is termed a "crime").

When the time has arrived for the Battalion Commandant to exercise his command as a whole, particular attention will be paid to field-work, as well as to what one may term "company drill *en masse*," for, properly speaking, battalion drill is only company drill on a glorified scale, with companies taking the place of platoons; there are, however, a few special formations, such as "mass."

There is one suggestion I would like to make to Commandants of corps which should help

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them to overcome a grave difficulty—*i.e.*, that of mobilization in case of emergency. It is best carried out as follows: Divide the corps into two parts—(1) Those who can mobilize at a moment's notice, and (2) those who can mobilize in the course of a post.

1. Each man in this class fills in his name and address on a telegraph form to which he attaches a sixpenny stamp. These telegraph forms should be printed before being handed out to the men, and should be brief and to the point as shown hereunder :

TO {				
Parade	for	service	—	o'clock
—	Station			
FROM {				
Commandant.				

All that has to be done by the headquarter staff on mobilization orders being received is to fill in time and place at which the man is to report, and to despatch the telegrams.

Starting Business

2. Men in Class II. should have served out to them post-cards printed as shown ; each man should stamp his post-card and write his name and address on the front.

When mobilization arrangements are being made, a comprehensive order should be issued setting forth the procedure to be adopted in the event of a sudden call, and what food and clothing are to be carried.

The following is the suggested wording of the post-card and order :

POST-CARD.

Mobilization of the Volunteer Training Corps having been ordered, you will parade at at o'clock .m., equipped as instructed in Special Order No. .

Commandant.

(Mobilization.)

SPECIAL ORDER No. .

By

..... Commandant,

..... V.B. Regt. (V.T.C.),

Headquarters,, 191...

“ Orders to mobilize will be transmitted to Class I. by telegram, and to Class II. by post-card. On receipt of instructions, men will proceed independently to the

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place named, fully armed, and in marching order, taking with them—

(a) "In the valise : spare underclothing, socks, towel, soap, brushes, and razors.

(b) "In the haversack : one day's rations.

"Blanket will be folded and attached to the back of the valise.

"NOTE.—Men in Class I. who join at once should arrange for their kit-bags to be forwarded to headquarters ; men of Class II. may bring theirs with them."

If these suggestions are carried out, the orderly-room staff will be saved a vast amount of work in directing and stamping telegrams and post-cards, and much valuable time will be saved at a crucial moment.

It seems, however, that there are two different cases to be considered if ever these forces are to be mobilized—*i.e.*, *mobilization by day*, and *mobilization by night*. In the majority of cases the men will have two addresses—a business address by day and a home address by night—and the postcard-telegram system is, therefore, open to grave objection on grounds of delay caused (1) by reason of this dual address ; and (2) by the congestion of the telegraph service due to the large number of messages which would be handed in in one locality.

Starting Business

In the alternative it is suggested that there be kept at Headquarters the business and home addresses of Commanding Officer, Second in Command, and Adjutant. That each of these have the two addresses of the four Company Officers; the Company Officers have the two addresses of their second in command and platoon commanders; each platoon commander to keep the two addresses of his platoon sergeant and section commander. The section commander keeps the two addresses of his section, and upon mobilization being ordered each would at once communicate with his immediate subordinate—the exact method would vary and would be arranged personally between the men concerned—and would proceed to Headquarters (or named rendezvous) as rapidly as possible. In this way all commanders would probably reach Headquarters before their men, and thus obviate the confusion which would inevitably ensue if the men began to arrive first.

If the mobilization order were received at night, when all the men would be at home, I think that it could probably be carried out most quickly by a system of motor and ordinary cyclist messengers delivering printed mobilization notices, which would be kept,

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addressed and sorted into districts, at Headquarters.

The programme in the next chapter sets out what I have found to be an excellent system for getting the men under one's charge to the highest pitch of efficiency possible in the very limited time at their disposal.

CHAPTER III

DRILL AND TRAINING

IN a purely voluntary movement such as this which we have under discussion, one is bound to get quite a lot of men who think they know more than their instructors; well, perhaps they do, and perhaps they ought to be in the non-commissioned ranks; but the quickest way to get there is to give absolute unswerving obedience to one's superior officers, whether they are right or wrong, for it is on their heads that the wrath will fall if any mistake is made, and in any case it should never be forgotten that it is better to be even inefficiently led, so that the unit works as a whole, than not to be led at all.

There has been a lot of nonsense talked of late years about equality, and "Jack being as good as his master," but, believe me, there is no equality in military life, whether it be the Guards or the newest formed Volunteer Training Corps. Some men have got to command and

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some to obey, and the man who gives the orders has got to be obeyed, and the Commanding Officer has got to back him up, and if necessary enforce the junior commander's orders. As this is particularly difficult in a Volunteer Training Corps, the men should play the game, and if one of their number is inclined to lay down the law, let them show him how mistaken he is.

Drill is especially designed to make men alert in body and mind, and to teach them to carry out movements as ordered with quickness and precision. At first it will be found that all the attention is needed to follow the words of the instructor and to move quickly enough to please him; but after a time it will come so natural that the "Rookie" will find himself obeying barrack-yard orders without thinking about it, and in due course he will find his mind is of a higher tone, for he has acquired that curious quality known as *esprit de corps*, and has his own proper place in the scheme of things, and in that life of the greater family—the battalion to which he belongs. People frequently talk of the Army as a great fighting machine; they also tell you that soldiers are too mechanical; but in this they are wrong, for although one quickly learns to obey an order almost concurrently with its utterance,

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this is only a proof that an early intelligent interest in drill has taught the man to carry out certain movements instinctively in order that his mind may be free for other purposes.

The second outcome of a proper system of drill is that each man learns his proper functions and place, both in the ranks, on the march and on the field of battle.

Apart from all questions of "fire control" and application, which are matters apart, the best test as to the efficacy of a system of training is the march discipline of the battalion when marching at ease in column of route (that is to say, four abreast), the proper preservation of pace and interval, the facility with which the battalion can be deployed from column of route into an extended fighting line, and also the regularity with which companies can advance or retire across country when in extended order.

The following diagram shows the position of all officers and N.C.O.'s when the battalion is marching in column of route. It should be observed that they are so arranged that the column is four abreast the whole way with no one out on the flanks.

It is of the greatest importance to remember these things :

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NOTE. — Each section is in column of four, and not in line, as the diagram, which is drawn to show the “Command” positions only, might lead one to suppose.

A *Company Cr*
 SC *Section Cr*
 B *Bugler or Drum.*
 C *Company Sgt.-Maj.*
 PC *Platoon Cr*
 D *“ “ Serjt.*
 E *Co. Qr Mr Sjt*
 F *Co. Second in Command*
 O *“ Packhorse & Driver*

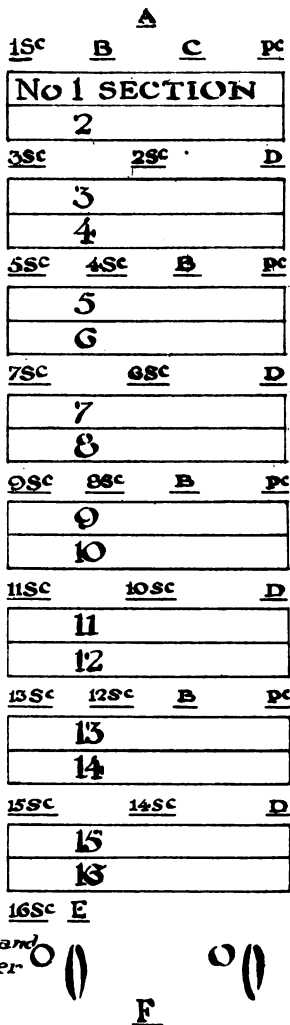


FIG. 2.—A COMPANY IN COLUMN OF ROUTE.

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1. The distance from the heels of the men in one four to the heels of the men in the four immediately following them is 54 inches, and this distance should be preserved right through the march. Any increase will materially lengthen the column and prove tiring to the rear company; any decrease will lead to discomfort, for there will not be sufficient space left for the dust to get clear. If the reader remembers that a company at full strength marching along the road occupies 75 yards from front to rear, it will be readily realized that even half a foot increase between the fours will appreciably affect the rear of the column.

2. In quick time, infantry should travel approximately 3 miles, including halts, per hour—that is to say, they take 120 paces of 30 inches each per minute, which again equals 100 yards per minute.

3. Infantry should always be halted for ten minutes at the end of each hour.

4. The men of each set of four should exactly cover the four men in front of them, and should preserve both covering and distance throughout the march.

5. On the march men should be encouraged to sing and whistle, but should be dissuaded from smoking and drinking. An occasional pipe

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may be all right, but cigarettes are thoroughly bad ; also, the more a man drinks the more he will sweat, and the more liquid he will need.

Also, although perhaps, properly speaking, it does not quite come in here, I would point out how important it is that men of the Volunteer Training Corps should be encouraged to keep themselves fit by leading careful lives when off parade ; they must also get their feet thoroughly hardened, and *must* get their bodies to the highest pitch of physical perfection of which they are capable.

I emphasize these points very strongly, because it is my desire to bring home to the men themselves their supreme importance. You see, if these Volunteer Corps are ever called out on active service, it will be active service of the most arduous nature.

Suppose, for example, we have been mobilized and have marched ten or twelve miles one evening, and then bivouacked in a field for the night. Suppose also that *réveillé* sounds at 4 a.m. next morning. We forage in our haversacks and finish up the remains of yesterday's rations with which we started, and wash them down with hot coffee or whatever it is possible to raise. At five o'clock we shall start off on the march, and shall probably "pad the hoof"

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for four or five hours, and then get an hour or two in which to dig ourselves in before the fight ; any grub we may have had will have been eaten on the march or between shifts in the trenches. Where the next meal will come from, and where we shall sleep (on the cold, cold ground probably) that night, goodness only knows. Let it therefore be clearly understood by every man who means to serve his country to the best of his ability that *he must get fit*, for physical capacity for endurance is vital to such work as I have just described.

6. When all arms are comprised in a column it will usually cover fifteen miles a day with one whole day's rest in seven. Infantry alone, if well trained, can cover twenty-three to twenty-five miles a day if necessary.

7. Six paces should be the distance from the rear of one company to the head of the next, and ten paces between the rear of one battalion and the head of the next.

8. In column of route troops always march by the left and on the left of the road unless specially ordered to do otherwise. If the road-side is bad, the files in fours may be changed over periodically.

9. When the column is halted cross-roads and side-roads should be left clear for traffic.

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10. Fords are suitable for infantry at 3 feet depth, and for ammunition waggons at 2 feet 4 inches. Fords should be marked with pickets. On the bend of a river the water will be shallow at the convex side, deepening toward the concave bank.

11. When marching at night all ranks should be informed what to do in case of attack.

Guides should be obtained.

Luminous compasses used.

Flankers and advanced guard thrown out.

The outpost line should be left in position until the last moment before starting.

12. The distances between companies and even battalions are dispensed with at night, but an officer must march in rear of each unit.

13. Before going on a march in really cold weather the men should be instructed to eat a good, hearty meal. Plenty of "internal packing," particularly if it is of a fatty nature, will keep out the cold, and brown- or news-paper wrapped round the body between the outer clothing and the under garments is a great protection too.

If a man is frostbitten the part affected should be rubbed with snow until its colour returns, but must on no account be warmed at a fire.

14. The feet should be kept scrupulously clean, both as a protection from cold and to

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prevent them from sweating unduly, which causes foot-soreness.

Feet should be washed with soap and smeared with grease both before a long march and in very cold weather.

Boots should be kept well greased, should be fully large, and have good, thick soles.

To prevent foot-soreness, which really comes from the friction between the foot, the sock, and the boot, the Russians wear large boots and bind the feet firmly in strips of linen. Personally, I have often marched with my bare feet inside the boots, and, on the whole, when the boots are well grease-softened and close-fitting, I have found it more comfortable than with socks on.

A good mixture for hardening the feet is made from sheep's gall and camphor mixed in equal parts.

If blisters come up they should be opened with a clean implement and a little Friar's balsam on a piece of lint applied.

When the socks are taken off they should be well shaken, stretched out in the air, and when put on again should be on the opposite feet from which they were taken off.

15. Grease smeared on the face and hands is a protection against cold.

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16. If no smoked glasses are available, snow-blindness may be prevented by rubbing any black substance on the nose and cheeks.

17. Half a yard of road space per man is allowed in column of route ; 2 yards for each horse belonging to the headquarters

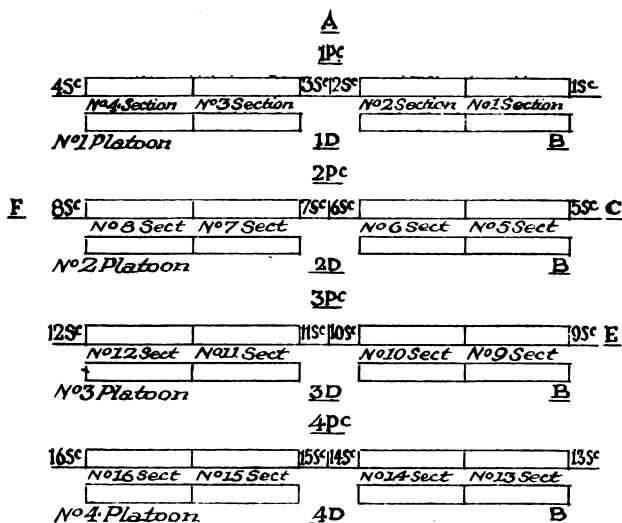
Another formation with which every man should be familiar is company in column of platoons, which is the formation taken up by the company when formed up in Mass for battalion drill. The formation is best explained by the accompanying diagram.

It is not my purpose in these pages to deal with the actual drill instruction. A number of most excellent books have been published on that subject already, in addition to "Infantry Training," 1914. One of the best of them is written by one of my own platoon commanders.* This is a little book I would strongly recommend to all men undergoing military training, especially men of the Volunteer Training Corps. Another excellent little book is "The New Company Drill at a Glance," published by Messrs. Upcott, Gill and Co., price 6d.

As there is much to do and little space to do

* "Recruits' Problems Solved" (3d. net), published by William Dawson and Sons, Ltd., Rolls House, Bream's Buildings, London, E.C.

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Key.

- A** *Company Commander*
- pc** *Platoon* " " "
- Sc** *Section* " " "
- D** *Platoon Serjt*
- B** *Drummer*
- F** *Co. Second in Command*
- C** *Co. Serjt-Maj.*
- E** *Co. Qr. Mr. Serjt.*

FIG. 3.—A COMPANY IN COLUMN OF PLATOONS

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it in, we must now pass on to the syllabus of training which is suggested, for there are many matters yet to be cleared up. For example, I have often heard men say that they would enjoy the field manœuvres so very much more if only they could understand what it is all about, and this is one of the very matters I hope to treat of shortly. In the meantime I must devote a page or so to a training system which will benefit all ranks, not only physically but mentally as well, I hope.

SUGGESTED SYLLABUS OF TRAINING (VOLUNTEER TRAINING CORPS).

Recruit Course.

First Week.—Ten hours' drill (one hour per evening, with three hours Sunday morning and two hours Saturday afternoon) devoted to slow marching, turning by numbers, quick and double marching, physical exercises.

Second Week.—Ten hours as for first week, turning on word of command, and with the addition of one hour lecture and one hour musketry instruction (explanation of weapon). Squad drill at the halt.

Third Week.—Ten hours. Slow, double, and quick marching. Squad drill on the move. Two half-hour lectures (discipline, the meaning of drill, or some like subject). Musketry instruction (two half-hour parades teaching firing positions). Physical exercise.

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Fourth Week.—Ten hours. Squad drill with extension movements. Physical exercises. One lecture on entrenching. One hour entrenching practice. One hour musketry instruction (triangle of error, etc.).

Fifth Week.—Ten hours. Squad drill with rifles. Two half-hour instructions in bayonet fighting. Physical exercises. Two half-hour lectures. One hour musketry. One hour practice on miniature rifle range. One hour entrenching.

Sixth Week.—Ten hours. Field-work, including distance judging, skeleton outposts by night and day, advancing and retiring across country in open order. One hour bayonet fighting. One hour practice on miniature rifle range.

The following are movements which should be constantly practised during recruit training :

SQUAD DRILL.

Fall-In.

Single or two ranks.

Attention.

Number.

Opening Squad with Intervals.

Odd numbers, front rank two paces forward.

Even numbers, rear rank two paces backwards.

Dressing Squad.

Extend right hand palm downwards,
look to right.

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Eyes Front.

Stand at Ease.

Stand Easy.

Attention.

Turning.

By numbers.

Judging the time.

Saluting.

By numbers.

Judging the time.

Balance Step.

Balance step with advancing.

Slow Marking Time.

Changing step.

Turning about.

Slow March.

Forward.

Backwards.

Changing step.

Turnings.

Stepping out (33 inches).

Stepping short (21 inches).

Changing from slow to quick march
and from quick to slow.

Re-Form Ranks—March.

Odd numbers, front rank two paces backwards.

Even numbers, rear rank two paces forward.

Marching in File.

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At the end of the sixth week the recruits should be ready to take their places in the ranks, and should therefore be posted to companies. It will be noticed that no reference is made to route marching in the above syllabus. This is because I assume the Commandant will see that the recruits go for route marches with the battalion. They may also be taken on field-days and tactical operations.

Marching has already been referred to in some detail; but it is pointed out that route marching should be approached with care, the distances being short at first, and gradually increasing in length and pace.

I started my own men off with six-mile route marches in September last, allowing them two and a quarter hours in which to cover the distance. The marches were increased to eight and ten miles, and at twelve miles were coupled up with night operations. At twelve miles they were kept steady.

Recently I decided on a test march, and paraded 800 of the 1st Battalion at Wandsworth Common, from whence they marched to Giggs' Hill Green, Thames Ditton, a distance of eleven and a half miles, in three and a half hours, with two halts. They then rested an hour and moved into the manœuvre area, and

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I calculate they covered at least two miles per man. After the operations they rested an hour, and then marched back the eleven and a half miles in the pouring rain at the same average speed as they compassed on the outward journey.

At Kingston certain men were entrained; but I noticed that it was not the men over thirty-eight who asked permission to fall out, but rather the younger men.

As regards the training of companies and the collective training of the battalion, these must be largely matters of internal arrangement, but the following schedule is suggested. In it, however, it will be noticed that no mention is made of shooting practice, as this again is a matter of internal arrangement; it should, however, be arranged for each of the four double companies to have the rifle range one week a month, which will enable the company commander to arrange for each section to do its firing under its own section commander—a matter of the greatest importance, for, as has been pointed out already, the section is the normal fire unit in the field.

In the same way, if a corps has only enough rifles or dummy rifles for one company, or even for one platoon, it should be arranged for these

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to be issued to each company for such periods as will allow the company commander sufficient time to instruct his company in the manual.

Yet one other matter which must be subject to arrangement—the use of the spring bayonet rifles for bayonet fighting. Of these implements each corps should possess half a dozen sets—that is to say :

- 6 Spring bayonet rifles.
- 6 Masks.
- 6 Jackets.
- 6 Pairs of gauntlets.
- 6 Pads.

SYLLABUS OF COMPANY TRAINING.

(Progressive.)

(It is postulated that the company will be trained over a fixed period to reach a required standard of efficiency.)

1st Fortnight.—Platoon and section drill under platoon and section commanders, and physical exercises on four nights a week. Company drill Sunday. Entrenching Saturday. One evening each week to be devoted to route marching. Two hours bayonet fighting.

2nd Fortnight.—Company drill; each evening interspersed with musketry instruction. Physical exercises and lectures. Two route marches (about twelve miles each). Field training by platoons and sections (see “Infantry Training, 1914,” and “Field Service Regula-

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tions," Part I.: Operations, 1909 [Reprint, 1912]). Elementary notes on field training. Two hours' bayonet fighting.

5th Week (if not previously carried out).—Firing practice on miniature rifle range. Drills for all sections while one section is shooting. One route march twelve to fifteen miles. Lectures on musketry. Two hours' bayonet fighting. Sunday, outpost scheme. Saturday, sections not shooting to practise entrenching.

6th Week.—Route marching and company drill on alternate nights, one section per evening being detailed for bayonet fighting and physical drill. Saturday, six-mile route march, followed by two hours entrenching straight after halt without any rest. Sunday, the platoons may be sent out under their own commanders for reconnaissance purposes.

7th Week and Subsequently.—Drill modelled on the above system worked in conjunction with the battalion drills and training.

Company commanders must see that all officers and men under them have ample opportunities for drilling and instructing their own units. Communicating drills should also be arranged for the benefit of N.C.O.'s and those who wish to become N.C.O.'s; these drills should be taken by a competent sergeant instructor or the company commander himself, and particular care should be taken to teach a good word of command. Digressing for a moment, the Adjutant should hold communi-

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cating drill for all junior officers, so that he may satisfy himself that they are instructed in their work, and to teach them a good word of command. I lay particular emphasis upon this point, as the smartness of a unit, be it company or battalion, depends to a large extent on the way in which the orders are given.

The battalion will usually go for a route march on one evening during the week, and on Saturday afternoon will carry out battalion drill under the Battalion Commandant. What is to be done on Sunday is largely a matter of corps custom ; in many units the members devote the whole day to military duties. This, of course, is as it should be, and gives the Commanding Officer a real working chance of making his command efficient. In other corps no Sunday drills are held, or only for an hour or so in the morning.

To meet the requirements of all parties, it is perhaps best to have company drill from 8.30 to 10 a.m. and battalion drill from 10.15 to 12 o'clock noon one Sunday, and field operations from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. the next Sunday, and once a month a field day against some other corps, when the men parade at 8.30 or 9 a.m. and return to headquarters at 9 or 10 p.m.

When the battalion is thoroughly efficient

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in what, for want of a better term, I will call parade-ground movements, I would suggest that each company should be struck off all duties for one month in order that it may undergo a comprehensive course of instruction in field operations under its own commander. During this period the battalion should be kept hard at it, route marching and entrenching. This is most important, for nowadays the battalion that cannot march for hours on end and then dig itself straight in on arriving at its destination is going to have a pretty thin time on active service, one may be quite sure.

The companies having finished their course of individual field training, during which the fire units will learn to act under their own commander, who will instruct them in fire direction, control, etc. (of which more anon), the Battalion Commandant will need to arrange for the field training of the battalion as a whole, and for this purpose I know of no better medium than a series of week-end camps with a standing camp for a month during August or August and September.

In this way, with a camp standing for a month or more, each man should be able to put in at least a week. Many could also be there the whole month, doing drills before and after the

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day's business, while the select and lucky few could be under canvas doing military duties continuously throughout the whole month. I have in mind a scheme by which the whole of the South London Division could go into camp together, but whether anything will come of it or not only the future can prove.

Week-end camps, however, are another and a simpler matter, and there are very few men who cannot get away from Friday night to Monday morning; but for those who cannot give so much time arrangements could be made whereby they would journey to camp at midday on Saturday and return to London on Sunday night or early Monday morning.

The value of these week-end camps is incalculable, for by attending them the men will get a real taste of the soldier's life, and will, we most sincerely trust, imbibe the first principles of that ready obedience to discipline in a volunteer service which has made the British Army what it is to day—the finest army in the world.

In the next chapter I propose dealing with the training in field operations and other matters—I hope, in such a way as will enlighten the men themselves as to the reason for the duties they are ordered to perform. There is also another matter of very vital importance to

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the Volunteer Training Corps just now—viz., inspection by a staff officer of the Central Association Volunteer Training Corps. I have frequently been asked what sort of work one should carry out, and what are the movements which are most likely to please the Inspecting Officer. To such a query I have always replied: “Any movements will please him so long as they are well carried out.”

CHAPTER IV

FIELD TRAINING AND SOME OTHER MATTERS

IT is one of the maxims of modern warfare that the soundest scheme of defence is a vigorous attack; therefore, in studying very briefly the field training applicable to companies or battalions, we will turn our attention first of all to the attack.

The reader must bear in mind that this little book makes no pretensions to the dignity of a treatise on tactics or even a training manual. Such matters have been very fully dealt with by wiser heads than the author's, as will be seen from the list of recommended works given at the end of this handbook, which is intended as a guide for the training of the newest branch of His Majesty's forces, for so, I suppose, the Volunteer Training Corps may now be regarded, as they have received recognition from the War Office, and more especially to show the man in the ranks how best to provide for his own comfort, and also that he may appreciate the inner meaning of certain evolutions.

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In modern warfare, especially in enclosed country such as our own, the Commander of an attacking force cannot possibly keep his men under his own eye, nor give them orders by word of mouth ; it therefore behoves every man, or at any rate every man of the rank of section-commander or more, to become to a certain extent his own General.

For example, a single company was recently detailed to break through the enemy's lines and to destroy a length of railway. Charges of gun-cotton, fuses, and detonators were served out to each platoon sergeant, but finally it fell to the lot of a section commander to do the job. How he did it is told in his own report (see Reference Map, p. 60), which is a most instructive document, as follows :

FIRST ATTACK.

Facing north from road, Nos. 1 and 2 platoons (" B " Company) made for footbridge over L. & S.W.R. local line, with 3rd rail (electric) north-east of pasture 1. East and west scouts reported enemy advancing from L. & S.W. main line. We advanced over footbridge to support advanced guard behind hedge and ditch west of pastures Nos. 2 and 3, taking cover to the east of this hedge and ditch. The enemy advanced to the west and across arable 6. " B " Company came out of cover at this stage, outnumbering the enemy in this position.

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SECOND ATTACK.

"B" Company 1 and 2 platoons assembled in pasture 1 along hedge south of railway, and advanced with object of cutting main line.

No. 1 platoon advanced under cover of rail and hedge in pasture 5, across local line to cover in pasture 4. No. 1 section pushed forward to hedge and ditch on north side of pasture 4.

I volunteered to cut main line with six picked men. Platoon sergeant accepted, and we advanced to east short distance, crossed ditch, and took cover on left of hut on allotments 7. At this point I sighted enemy at signal to the east advancing along north side of local line. I ran to Y, taking as much cover as possible from fruit-bushes, second man following, and so on until all my men were in cover of bushes Y.

From this point two men and myself advanced along ditch G to rubbish heaps F, and under cover of them I reached main line galvanized wire fence about 10 yards to the east of fourth H-telegraph post west of junction, where I remained fifteen minutes—sufficient time to fix and fire charge supplied for purpose of cutting railway.

I was returning by the same route, and was rejoined by my two men, when three minutes later at O enemy appeared in force from broken hedge to the east of allotments, and we surrendered about 3.45 p.m.

The point at which I laid charge, primer, detonator and fuse on the railway, I estimate to be 450 yards west of the junction.

FIG. 4.—PLAN OF ATTACK.

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Now, it is obvious that the force attacking has the initiative, and can, therefore, bring on an action at such time and place as best suits their convenience. If the enemy is strongly posted or entrenched, the attacking force has the further advantage that they can, as the Zulus say, fight the fight of "sit down," or, in other words, play a waiting game in the hope that the defenders will be tempted to emerge from their shelter, and a hand-to-hand engagement be brought about.

There is also the strong moral effect which the mere fact of being part of an attacking force has upon a soldier, and also the other fact that he knows his commander will concentrate on the most vulnerable point in the defences.

No matter, however, whether one is commanding the force attacking or the force in defence. The first thing to be done is to establish, by means of patrols or scouts, touch with the enemy, and to force him to reveal his dispositions ; the commander can then dispose his own men to the best advantage, and in such a way as to enable him to build up an overwhelming volume of fire at the crucial moment.

Much depends on the gradual building up of the fire, as it is this question of fire direction

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and control which paves the way for the final bayonet charge which clears the trenches, or, on the other hand, for the counter-attack which will drive the attackers back.

The first thing to be done, then, in attacking a position, is to make a careful reconnaissance; from this reconnaissance and other information the General Officer commanding the forces, of which your unit is an integral part, draws up the Orders for the Attack, in the form of an Operation Order, somewhat as follows:—

OPERATION ORDER No. .

By

Commanding

STUDLEY HALL,
ROMFORD.

October 6, 1915.

Reference 6 in Ordnance Map No. .

1. Information concerning the enemy.

Information concerning our own troops in the neighbourhood.

2. Intention of the General Officer Commanding.

3. Commander of mounted troops or cyclists.

Duties of mounted troops or cyclists.

4. Position for artillery.

Target for artillery.

Time of opening fire for artillery.

5. (i.) Infantry main attack :

(a) Commander.

(b) Troops detailed for this work.

(c) The objective.

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(ii.) Infantry holding attack :

(a) Commander.

(b) Troops detailed for this work.

(c) Length of front extended.

6. Orders for engineers.

7. Commander of general reserve.

Troops detailed as general reserve.

Position of general reserve.

8. Positions of ammunition columns.

9. Positions of dressing stations and field ambulances.

10. Positions of baggage and transport.

11. Position of General Officer Commanding.

..... Brigadier,

General Staff,

..... Division.

When this is all arranged, and the general attack is about to come on, then the Battalion Commandant calls up his company commanders, explains to them the special duty allotted to the battalion, and then details to each the special task for his own company.

In paragraph 5 of the Operation Order above the reader will have noticed "Main attack" and "Holding attack," both of which are split up in identically the same way—*i.e.*, into the firing line, reserves, and general reserves; for the benefit of the man in the ranks who is keen on his work and wants to get promotion, it will be as well to define the three parts separately.

The firing line is preceded by the scouts, who push forward until they are unable to get any

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farther. Having reached this stage, they lie down and watch the movements of the enemy, until they are absorbed into the firing line.

The firing line proper develops the attack, and advances with varying intervals of from 5 to 15 yards between man and man; this line pushes forward until, like the scouts, it can get no "forrader," and then it hangs on like grim death, and at all costs, until it is reinforced by the supports, who are really a part of the firing line, just as are the scouts, because certain companies are told off by the Battalion Commandant to form the firing line, and each company is then divided by its own company commander into scouts, firing line, and supports. The fact that scouts and supports are now merged in the firing line will naturally have reduced the distance between man and man; but they are not close enough together yet, nor are there enough of them in the firing line to build up that overpowering volume of fire which is to utterly demoralize the enemy before we charge him with the cold steel. The *reserves* will therefore supply the deficiency by bringing up the firing line to its maximum density; and yet not quite all the reserves are used up in this way, for a few of them are held in check, and only pushed forward into the

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firing line at the last moment to lend verve and dash to the assault. In the final assault there are from three to five men per yard frontage, arranged as to depth as may be most convenient.

The reserves, who in reality are the remaining companies of the battalion which have not been allotted for duty in the firing line, have a most important function to fulfil even in the early stages of the fight, for not only do they protect the flanks from counter-attack, but also cover the advance of their comrades by long-range fire. Finally, if the assault has been indecisive, and only succeeded in driving the enemy out of one position into another, the companies who previously supplied the firing line will now be placed in reserve, and the reserve companies flung forward to pave the way for the second assault.

It should be remembered that here in the firing line and with the local reserve, company and platoon commanders—aye, and section leaders too—have got to think and act for themselves, for once the fight is on they will soon be beyond the control of the Battalion Commandant.

The thing which both firing line and reserve alike have in mind is to push forward with the

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utmost determination, letting nothing stop them, and no obstacle prove too great, until finally they are within 400 or 500 yards of the enemy's position; here the reserves come up into the firing line, bayonets are fixed, and the men wait for the bugle call to sound the charge.

It is often, I know, unpleasant to have to carry out an extension just at that particular spot the company commander has selected; but, then, all extensions must be made under cover. Or, again, it is not always pleasant to wade through a stinking morass; but, then, if you happen to be one of the six men picked to advance ahead of your company, you have got to force the enemy's hand by making him open fire, and also you have to guard your comrades from falling into a snare.

Another thing which makes the soldier swear to a surprising degree is advancing by sectional rushes, and another, crawling on his belly for a hundred yards or so to a new position. And yet on active service it is an equally amazing thing to see how rapidly a section can bolt to cover like bonny buck rabbits scuttling to ground; and also to see the uncomplaining way in which Tommy Atkins will wriggle from one boulder to another remarkably

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flat and close to the ground when the bullets are flying overhead.

The *general reserve* may well be likened to the General Officer Commanding's trump card, and usually consists of a number of complete battalions held in reserve in a position from which they can readily and rapidly reinforce any part of the firing line, crown a doubtful success of their comrades, and insure the security of a position their comrades have carried; they are also an emergency body to check any counter-attack in force by the opponents.

It should be remembered that in the early stages of an advance the men are too widely extended for their fire to be really effective; it should therefore be reserved until the firing line is reinforced—at any rate, by the supports—all the early firing being done by the artillery and local reserves.

If the men have to cross large spaces of open ground too great to be managed in the one rush, then they should remember that after the first rush they are not expected to open fire; all they have to do is to lie face down to the ground, still, until they have got their breath back and are ready to advance once more; these rushes should never be of more

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than 100 yards at one burst, seldom as much, and the final charge not more than 50 yards.

When it is no longer possible to continue the advance in line without firing, rushes will commence from a flank; if No. 1 section rushes No. 2 will be still with their heads down, and Nos. 3 and 4 will fire two rounds rapid. No. 2 will then rush covered by the fire of Nos. 1 and 4; No. 3 Section will not fire for fear of hitting their comrades. Early rushes will be long with few men up; final rushes short with a number of men up.

When the enemy's position has been finally carried, the firing must be reopened upon the retreating foe, to prevent him from trying to regain his lost position. At this time the officers in charge of the main attack will be faced with a nice problem—*i.e.*, should he be content to secure his position against counter-attack, or should he pursue after the foe in the hope of turning the retreat into an utter rout? He should not do so because his own men will be exhausted, while the enemy remain fresh, and can easily get away.

It is interesting to note that the direction for the culminating charge usually comes from the firing line itself; a company commander

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observes a retrograde movement from the enemy's position, yells out "Charge!" and leaps forward at the head of his men. Nor are the other company commanders slow to follow his lead. (Bayonets are fixed at 400 yards distance).

If, however, as sometimes happens, the final charge has to be stimulated from the rear, then all supports and reserves will be ordered up, and in delivering the assault will sweep the firing line forward with them.

Another matter of great importance is fire control. It is an obvious fact that as men only carry 150 rounds of ammunition into the field with them, fire must be held back until it is absolutely necessary to let it go. There are, of course, many chances to establish enfilade fire, and so on, in the course of an advance which must be taken advantage of; but, generally speaking, firing should be left to the reserves during the early stages of an advance. This is hard on the men, I know, for there is a lot of comfort to be got out of the kick of a rifle on active service, and the stink and crack of the cordite are the best smell and most pleasant sound imaginable under certain circumstances. All this, however, only goes to prove that absolute discipline is necessary in the firing

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line as elsewhere in military life, and that the company commander must control the expenditure of ammunition in the field; more than this, it will be almost impossible for him to do. The section firing will be controlled by platoon commanders, who will direct the sections somewhat as follows :

No. 1 Section at the white house three fingers left of the iron bridge ; ten o'clock, at

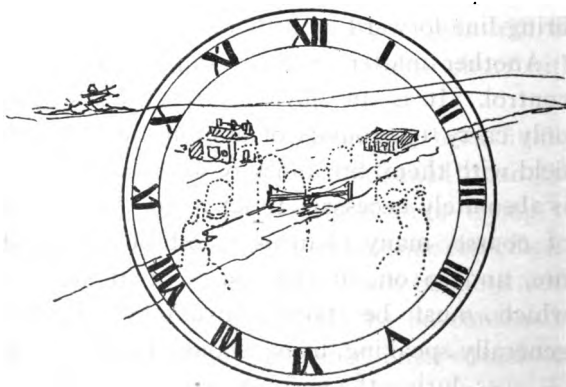


FIG. 5.

700 yards. No. 3 Section at the barn on river bank, three fingers right of iron bridge ; two o'clock, at 800 yards. In this way he gives the objective to the sections, the commanders of which detail ranges, etc., and observe, check, and control the fire of their own section.

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The question of fire control also affects the reserves, who have to furnish the covering fire until such time as the firing line can for themselves establish such a volume of fire as will allow the reserves to advance without appreciably lessening the rate at which the enemy are being peppered.

The term "main attack" explains itself; I shall therefore not insult the reader's intellect by defining it, but "holding attack" may perhaps present a little problem to him. Now, it so happens in modern warfare that unless one is blessed with powerful artillery in support, it is frequently impossible to drive home a frontal attack, and it then becomes necessary to make a feint in force against the enemy's front while designing to attack him on the flank. The frontal attack in such case is referred to as the "holding attack."

Pages—nay, whole volumes—might be written on these most interesting subjects, but my space is very limited. We must therefore pass on to questions of defence, and for that purpose I do not think we can do better than to commence by studying the operation order for the defence of a position, which would read somewhat as follows :

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OPERATION ORDER No. .

By

Commanding

STUDLEY HALL,
ROMFORD.

October 6, 1915.

Reference 6 in Ordnance Map No. .

1. Information as to the enemy.
Information as to our own troops in the neighbourhood.
2. Intention of General Officer Commanding.
3. Commander of mounted troops.
Duties of mounted troops.
4. Position for artillery.
Target for artillery.
Instructions as to opening fire by artillery.
5. Infantry orders :
 - (a) Division of position into sections.
 - (b) Names of commanders of sections.
 - (c) How troops are to be distributed.
 - (d) How position is to be strengthened.
6. Way in which engineers are to help infantry strengthen the position.
7. Position of general reserve.
Commander of general reserve.
Troops detailed as general reserve.
8. Distribution of reserve ammunition.
9. Positions of dressing stations and field ambulances.
10. Position of train and baggage.
11. Position of General Officer Commanding.

..... Brigadier,
General Staff,
..... Division.

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Much of the work in preparing to defend a position will be understood by the draft operation order given above.

The General Officer Commanding selects the position to be defended, divides it into sections, in all probability after he has been over it himself.

Having then decided how many men will be needed to hold the position, he calculates how many of his available troops will be required to deliver a counter-attack at the crucial moment. He will then have drawn up and issued the operation orders.

However, the work of the General Officer Commanding comes under the heading of grand tactics, which it is not the province of this little book to discuss. We will therefore confine our attention to the things which come within the purview of the battalion or company commander and their subordinates; and their responsibility is no light one, let me assure you, for in such fighting as the Volunteer Training Corps would be called upon to undertake in this most enclosed country the selection of position, the siting of trenches, etc., will not infrequently devolve upon the lesser officers, and it is in the hope that the men will aid their leaders by an intelligent interest in the work that I give a few suggestions

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and explanations as to the selection and defence of a position, in order that certain matters may become clear to the man in the ranks which would otherwise remain a mystery to him.

It is almost needless to state that defended positions may be of two kinds—one entrenched, and the other a natural position taken up hastily which there has been no time to strengthen by entrenchments, entanglements, or what not.

The defence will normally be divided into three or four parts :

1. The firing line.
2. Supports if needed.
3. Local reserves.
4. General reserves.

After briefly defining these four terms I will detail the defence and explain it by means of a diagram.

The Firing Line is that portion of the defending force detailed to hold the main line of resistance to the enemy's attack. In front of the firing line may be *detached posts* for the purpose of seeing that the enemy do not concentrate in dead ground for the final assault. These posts are only used to protect such points of concentration as cannot be commanded from the firing line ; they should only be used when absolutely necessary, as they are exceedingly liable to

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be cut off (*vide* F. S. Regs., Part I., 1912 reprint, para. 83).

A detached post usually consists of a section or half a section under an officer or N.C.O., according to their importance, and are generally placed in front or rear of the extreme flank of the line, or they may be out beyond the sentries.

The Supports should be in a protected position behind the firing line; if the position is entrenched they should be in shelter trenches having covered communication with the fire trenches. No part is taken in the fight by the supports until the enemy's attack is fully developed, when they will be used to strengthen that part of the line that is bearing the brunt.

Local Reserves should be posted in such a position that they can, by counter-attack, drive out the enemy at every point at which he penetrates the firing line. When possible, the position selected for the local reserve should afford natural cover and protection. Unless the flanks of the position rest upon impassable ground, or are otherwise protected, local reserves should be echeloned in rear of the flank section.

[NOTE.—“Echelon” is “a formation of successive and parallel units facing in the same direction, each on a flank, and to the rear of the unit in front of it.”]

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The General Reserve consists of all the troops at the disposal of the General Officer Commanding who are not needed for the firing line, and are kept under his personal control until the time arrives to launch the decisive attack.

Concerning the strength of the various lines detailed above, let us suppose that the General Officer Commanding has 5,000 men at his disposal, then the distribution would be approximately as follows :

Firing line	...	...	...	950
Supports	...	...	...	300
Local reserve	...	...	...	1,250
General reserve	...	...	...	2,500
				<hr/>
				5,000

It is convenient now to state the composition and duties of an outpost, and its various component parts.

Outposts, as distinguished from advance- or rear-guards, are thrown out for the purpose of protecting a force at rest ; an outpost consists of sentries, pickets, supports, and possibly reserves. It forms a line of observation watching all approaches, and also of resistance, such resistance being sufficiently strong and determined to give the officer commanding the main body time to make his dispositions for meeting the attack of the enemy.

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It will, of course, be realized that the reserves referred to above are not always necessary.

The Sentries. are posted in groups of from three to six men, under an N.C.O., and each sentry should know the name and range of all places and objects within his field of vision, the position of his picket, and the sentries on his right and left.

His duties are to see and hear without being seen or heard.

Unless absolutely driven to it, a sentry should never give the alarm by firing, but should send a message back to the picket by a man of the sentry group.

The Picket.—The officer or N.C.O. in charge of the picket, which varies in size, numbering a complete platoon upon occasion, gets his orders before moving off, communicates them to his men, and sees that such orders are carried out. He posts and relieves all sentry groups, and the sentry over the picket; he also visits the sentries from time to time. Before going out on visiting rounds, however, he places his second in command in charge of the picket.

Finally, he must know and communicate to his men the range of all prominent features in the field of vision, and also the name and range of all places which can be seen (see Figs. 6 and 7).

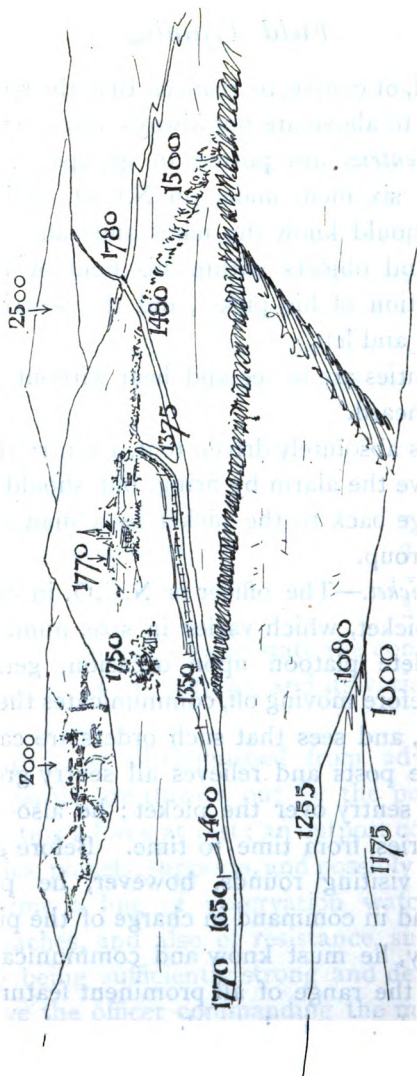


FIG. 6.—RANGE SKETCH.

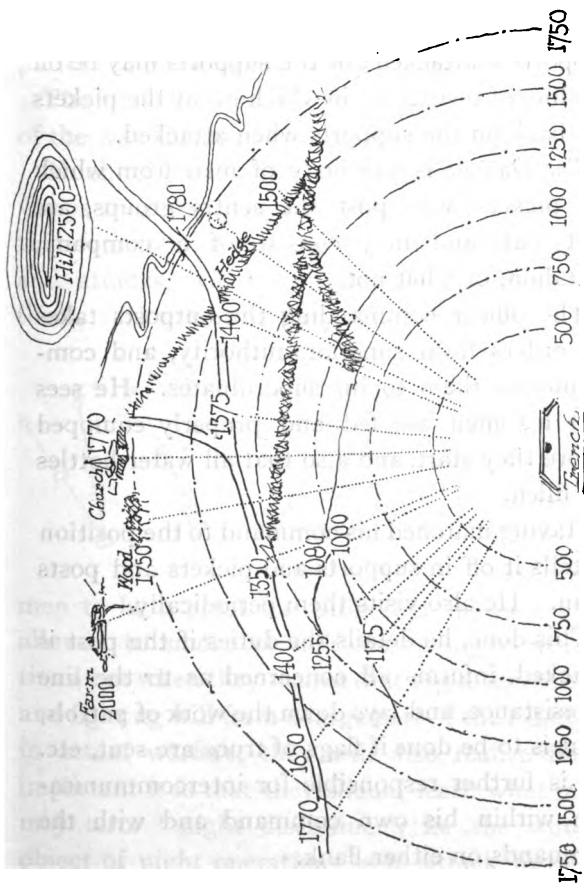


FIG. 7.—RANGE CARD.

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The pickets may be on the line of resistance, in which case they will be reinforced by the supports if attacked; or the supports may be on the line of resistance, in which event the pickets fall back on the supports when attacked.

The Outpost is the body of men from which the pickets, who post the sentry groups, are sent out, and may consist of a company, battalion, or what not.

The officer commanding the outposts takes his orders from superior authority, and communicates them to his subordinates. He sees that his men are fed and properly equipped before they start, and also that all water-bottles are filled.

Having marched his command to the position he tells it off in supports and pickets and posts them. He also visits them periodically.

This done, he details the duties if the post is attacked, informs all concerned as to the line of resistance, and lays down the work of patrols, what is to be done if flags of truce are sent, etc. He is further responsible for intercommunication within his own command and with the commands on either flank.

It is his duty to have prepared and issued range sketches and cards as shown in Figs. 6 and 7.

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[NOTE.—All outposts stand to arms an hour before sunrise, and remain under arms until the patrols come in again.]

The following diagram (Fig. 8) gives a good idea of the way in which an outpost line is disposed.

Much of the work of Volunteer Training Corps must of necessity be done at night: it therefore follows that night marches, advances, and attacks, will be of particular interest to them. I know it is frequently thought by the

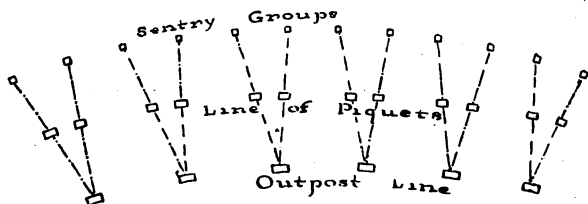


FIG. 8.

men to be a great hardship that they are not allowed to smoke or talk during night operations, but when they realize that night marching and fighting will form a large part of their duties in actual warfare, they will also realize how important it is that they should learn what one may term "night discipline"; for the whole object of night operations is to attack by surprise, an object it will be impossible to effect if men talk, smoke, and light matches. In this same connection it is pointed out that all

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accoutrements likely to jangle or rattle are to be muffled. In night fighting, too, it is usual to have recourse to the bayonet only.

Let me briefly describe the routine to be followed. First of all the orders are issued detailing the preliminary march and how the forces are to move to the "position of assembly"—that is to say, the position from which the march formation is changed to a fresh formation, which is again changed when the "position of deployment" is reached. What is meant by "position of assembly" and "position of deployment" is best explained by the following diagram.

In issuing the orders the following should be stated :

Compass bearing of route.

What is to be done in case of attack.

Positions of assembly and deployment should be described, and also the point from which the assault will be delivered.

Method of assault and signal to be given for the assault to be delivered.

What steps are to be taken to resist a counter-attack after the position has been carried.

Watchword.

Position of the commander during the various stages of the operation.

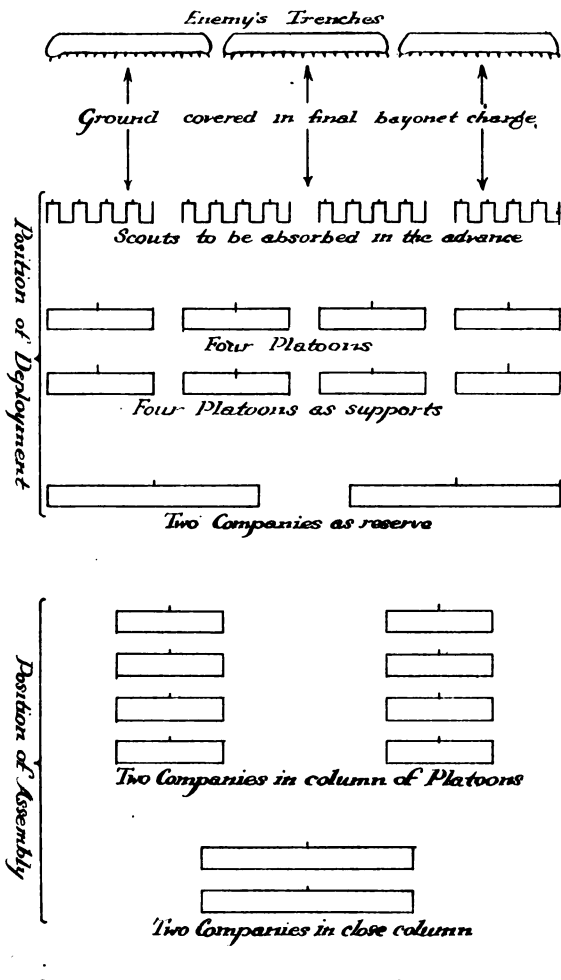


FIG. 9.—A BATTALION MOVING TO A NIGHT ATTACK.

NOTE: The Battalion marches in Column of Route until it reaches position of Assembly.

CHAPTER V

ADMINISTRATION AND THE WAR OFFICE LETTER

MANY reams of paper have been used, and a mighty river of ink has flowed, since the famous War Office letter to Lord Desborough, dated November 19, 1914, and yet all the writing in the world has made no difference.

Every attempt has been made to get a clear and authoritative definition of what is a "good and sufficient reason," and also an understanding as to the conditions and circumstances under which a man of military age is to enlist if specially called upon to do so, but it has all been to no purpose. The War Office authorities are adamant and inexorable; they will neither add to nor take away from the terms of the letter—it is final, and, so far as I can see, each single man, from Commandant to bugler boy, must put his own interpretation to the various clauses contained therein, and the man of military age—*i.e.*, between nineteen and thirty-eight—must sign the declaration, "I accept the terms

Administration

of the War Office letter to Lord Desborough 20/Gen. No./3604 (A. G. 1), dated November 19, 1914," or resign the membership of the corps, otherwise it cannot become affiliated to the Central Association Volunteer Training Corps, in which case every single member of such an unaffiliated corps is a non-combatant, and the only part he can take, if our shores are raided, is to help drive cattle, carry stores, bury the dead, etc.

The following is a copy of the letter in question, which the reader should study carefully, and which I will then explain as I understand it, and to the best of my ability; *but before going into this matter I would like to clearly point out that the views expressed are my own personal views only, and in no way to be considered as being authoritative or "inspired."*

WAR OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.
November 19, 1914.

MY LORD,

In confirmation of the arrangements made with you in various interviews, I am commanded to inform you that the Army Council are prepared to grant recognition to the Central Association Volunteer Training Corps, as long as a responsible officer approved by the War Office is its adviser, and the Council will extend that recognition to such Volunteer Forces and Rifle

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Clubs, etc., as may become affiliated to your Association, and decide to abide by your rules.

The following rules have been framed as the conditions under which the Army Council are prepared to grant recognition to your Association, and to those which may be affiliated thereto:—

1. It is to be clearly understood that only the names of those can be registered who are not eligible through age to serve in the Regular or Territorial Army, or are unable to do so for some genuine reason which is to be recorded in the Corps Register; in the case of the latter, they must agree in writing to enlist if specially called upon to do so.

2. No arms, ammunition, or clothing will be supplied from public sources, nor will financial assistance be given.

3. There may be uniformity of dress among members of individual organizations, provided that no badges of rank are worn, and provided that the dress is distinguishable from that of Regular and Territorial Units.

4. Members of recognized organizations will be allowed to wear as a distinctive badge a red armlet of a breadth of three inches with the letters G. R. inscribed thereon. The badge will be worn on the left arm above the elbow.

5. The accepted military ranks and titles will not be used or recognized, and no uniform is to be worn except when necessary for training.

6. No form of attestation involving an oath is permitted.

7. It will be open to Army Recruiting Officers to visit the Corps at any time and to recruit any members found eligible for service with the

Administration

Regular Army whose presence in the Corps is not accounted for by some good and sufficient reason.

A circular letter, of which a copy is attached, is being sent to all those corps which have applied to the War Office on various questions dealing with their formation.

I am, my lord,
Your lordship's obedient servant,
R. H. BRADE.

THE RIGHT HON. LORD DESBOROUGH,
K.C.V.O.

Now, in considering this letter, let us from the start clearly realize the object that has dictated the War Office policy in this matter. While fully believing that the powers that be realize the value of some two million men, all training sedulously to acquire a certain small amount of proficiency in the art of war, I also fully realize the fact that they are animated, and rightly so, by the great desire that no man who is physically fit, and has not a good and sufficient reason for not joining His Majesty's Regular or Territorial Forces, shall find shelter in the V.T.C., and say to himself in self-gratulation, "I am doing my bit," when in reality he is shirking his duty, and soothing his vanity by endeavouring to make his friends believe that he really is serving. Now, that type of man is no use to a Volunteer Training Corps. I doubt

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very much whether he would be of use as a fighter at all, but the Volunteer Training Corps should be very grateful to the War Office for taking drastic steps to check the enrolment of such men.

As to the last part of Rule 1: "In the case of the latter [*i.e.*, men of military age] they must agree in writing to enlist if specially called upon to do so." Now, I take it that Rule 7 is meant to provide for a different process from that indicated in Rule 1. This being the case, let us see what Rule 1 really does mean. To my mind, it is very clear that the War Office have not fixed thirty-eight as the limit age at which they will enlist a man without some good and sufficient reason, therefore they wish to have a first call upon all the men below that age, but only under special circumstances. Now, what special circumstances can one imagine that would necessitate the calling upon of thousands of men who have binding and unavoidable home ties, other than invasion, the imminence of invasion, or grave civil riots, in any of which events each and every man of the Volunteer Training Corps would not only be willing, but eager, to be attested? So I think against Rule 1 we may write down the word "Invasion."

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Another paragraph in Rule 1 which has led to a lot of dissension is, What is a "genuine reason"? For the moment I would call your attention to the statement published under authority from the Central Association Volunteer Training Corps in the *Volunteer Training Corps Gazette* on January 23, 1915, as follows:

"WAR OFFICE RULES.

"The following may be considered as genuine reasons:

"1. Government Contracts. These include not only work on arms and ammunition, but Government contracts for boots, clothing, etc. (It has been laid down by the Home Office that men employed on railways have a genuine reason if they cannot be spared by the railway companies.)

"2. Government employment, or employment by county, municipal, or local authorities, such as clerks in the Admiralty, Post Office, etc., teachers, where permission to enlist is refused by the authorities.

"3. Physical disabilities, which would include men who have been rejected from the army by the medical officers.

"These are the genuine reasons laid down by the War Office, but exceptional cases may arise. These must be only accepted on the individual responsibility of the responsible officer of the corps, and the Central Association recommends that all other cases should be

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submitted to the Chief Recruiting Officer of the district.

“The Central Association advises that all corps should, without delay, get in touch with the Recruiting Officer, and place their corps register before him, so that he can see that no men are in the corps, of military age, who have not got a genuine reason for not enlisting. This will remove any doubt about signing the required form by men of military age.”

Now, this gives three clear classes, but there are also the exceptional cases, which are only accepted on the individual responsibility of the responsible officer of the corps, and herein, I think, is to be found the crux of the whole question and the root of the difficulty.

Different Commandants may have different views on the genuine reason, so, for that matter, will different recruiting officers, and here we must anticipate and take in Rule 7 as well, for the right of the recruiting officer to visit corps and recruit men who are of military age, and have not a good and sufficient reason to justify their presence in the corps, must of necessity be read in conjunction with the “genuine reason” clause. But also for my line of argument to be appreciated, we must explain Rule 6 as well; this rule says: “No form of attestation involving an oath is permitted,” and that being the case, it is impossible for the recruiting

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officer or anybody else to compel a man of military age to serve in the army if he does not wish to do so. Don't run away with the idea, please, that I am suggesting that any man should shirk a moral obligation—that is very far from my mind—but I contend that enlistment in the Army (Regular or Territorial Force) or enrolment in a Volunteer Training Corps is a matter for a man's own conscience; if a young married man feels that his duty to his wife and children, or other dependents, will not permit him to volunteer for active service at the present time, when there are thousands of unmarried, unencumbered shirkers, upon whom no compulsion is brought to bear, trooping about the streets—if, moreover, a man's dependents, no matter whether he is married or single, will be left destitute by his death, then, I say that, until all the unencumbered men of military age have been forced to do their duty, the other man has a perfectly good and sufficient reason which entitles him to be enrolled in a Volunteer Training Corps. My point is this: if a man's moral "home" obligations are such that he has felt himself precluded from enlisting, then, no matter whether he signs the declaration or not, those obligations are not in any way altered.

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The reason I referred to Rule 6 just now is because it specifically lays down that no form of attestation will be permitted which involves the taking of an oath, but until a man has taken the oath and been properly attested, no power in the country, short of an Act of Parliament making conscription legal, can force that man to serve against his will. And as to the recruiting officer's power to visit a corps and "recruit any member found eligible for service in the Regular Army whose presence in the corps is not accounted for by some good and sufficient reason," such a power does not exist ; all that the recruiting officer can do is to try and *persuade* men to join the colours, and in the event of their refusing to do so, and if they have not "good and sufficient reasons," he can tell the Commandant that the man or men in question must leave the corps. It therefore behoves Commandants to see that every man of military age who wishes to join the corps furnishes a good and sufficient reason before he is accepted ; but once having accepted the man's reason as genuine, I do feel that it is a Commandant's duty to protect that man, if need be, from being bullied or badgered into enlisting against his sense of "home" duty.

It all amounts to this, however : if the Com-

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mandants play the game on their side, the recruiting officers will show an equally sportsman-like spirit on theirs.

To summarize this briefly. In my opinion—

1. There is no compulsion on any man to enlist if he does not want to.

2. If any man has been accepted without a genuine reason, the recruiting officer may call upon the Commandant to see that that man leaves the corps, the alternative being—if one does not obey the wishes of the recruiting officer, that is to say—the Central Association may withdraw affiliation, and the members of the corps will be put on the footing of non-combatants.

3. If a Commandant has accepted a man's reason, he is in honour bound to uphold it.

Dealing generally with some other points, Rule 3 allows for uniformity of dress provided it is distinguishable from that of the Regular and Territorial units. Well, surely this is as it should be, for there cannot be a man so little souled who lies snug and warm in his bed night after night, and only does a few hours' drill a week, who wants to lead people to believe that he is the genuine article—the khaki-clad fighting man.

Rule 2 states no clothing, equipment, or financial aid will be given from public sources.

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Well, I think that will come in time. No one buys a horse until he has had it "vetted," or a house until his surveyor has made a report; neither is the War Office going to spend money on the Volunteer Training Corps until they are convinced that the Volunteer Training Corps can do something for themselves.

Finally, it is laid down that no titles or badges of rank are to be worn. But these, I think, are matters which will be adjusted in time; but I do hope the red brassards will disappear in due course, and as all the units become uniformed.

Other matters—for instance, proficiency badges—will be dealt with as briefly as possible.

PROFICIENCY BADGES.

Every man before being reported as efficient by the Commanding Officer must have attended a minimum of forty infantry drills of one hour each, and must at least be a second-class shot with service sights at a miniature rifle range (old soldiers excepted). The classifications to be as follows:

<i>Deliberate.</i>			
Marksmen	...	...	95 per cent.
First class	...	...	90 ,,
Second class	...	...	85 ,,

Number of rounds to be fired is ten with open sight; recruits' target 2-inch bull; distance, 25 yards at a miniature range.

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Rapid at "Time Limit" Target.

Marksman	90 per cent.
First class	85 „
Second class	80 „

Time allowed, ten seconds per shot.

The following is a letter dealing with the question of uniform, and also an order issued January 16, 1915, regarding ranks to which officers and N.C.O.'s are entitled.

" December 18, 1914.

"The uniform approved by the Military Committee of the Central Association Volunteer Training Corps is a Norfolk jacket, with shoulder straps, made in a green-grey rain-proof drill. For N.C.O.'s and men it should be made with a closed collar and military cuff; for officers with open neck to show tie, and plain sleeves so that bands can be worn. The rank of the officer should be indicated by white braid bands worn on the cuff. There is no objection to the coat being made in green-grey woollen cloth where the corps can afford it. This coat, where possible, should be worn with breeches or trousers made of whipcord or cloth of the same material as the coat, brown leather gaiters and boots. A leather belt can be worn instead of belts of the same material as the jacket; and the cap, where obtainable, should be the ordinary military peak cap, but no objection would be made to the forage cap or felt hat; but the headgear should be decided upon by each county, and the style should be

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adhered to throughout the county. The Military Committee recommend that the Norfolk jacket should be made full, so that it can be worn over thick clothes or a cardigan jacket. It is also suggested that, if it can be afforded, the jacket should be lined." *

RANKS AND BADGES OF RANK.

The following regulations have been made respecting ranks and badges of rank, and have been approved by the Military Adviser :

REGIMENT CONSISTING OF TWO OR MORE BATTALIONS.

Army Rank.	Corresponding V.T.C. Rank.
Brigadier-General	Regimental Commandant.

Battalion of full regulation strength, as for the Regular Army, and of four double companies.

Army Rank.	Corresponding V.T.C. Rank.
Lieutenant - Colonel commanding	Commandant.
Major	Sub Commandant.
Adjutant	Adjutant.
Captain, commanding company	Company Commander.
Lieutenant or 2nd Lieutenant, commanding platoon	Platoon Commander.
Quartermaster	Quartermaster.

The senior Sub-Commandant would take the place of Commandant in the temporary absence of the latter, and if the absence is permanent, a fresh Commandant should be appointed.

It is permissible, on duty only, to use the title of

* Since writing this, permission for woollen-cloth uniforms has been withdrawn, the material being required for the Regular Army and Territorial Force.

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"Adjutant" or "Quartermaster," and for these officers to be appointed by the Commandant.

A sergeant-major and a quartermaster-sergeant can be appointed to a battalion and can be addressed as such when on duty only.

To each platoon four N.C.O.'s, corresponding to the rank of "sergeant," and four corresponding to that of "corporal," can be appointed, and are to be called "section commanders."

BADGES OF RANK.

Badges of rank should be worn on both sleeves below the elbow.

Regimental Commandant	5 rings ; 4 plain and the upper one an Austrian knot.
Commandant - - -	4 rings ; 3 plain and the upper one an Austrian knot.
Sub-Commandant - -	3 rings ; 2 plain and the upper one an Austrian knot.
{ Adjutant - - -	2 rings ; 1 plain and the upper one an Austrian knot.
{ Company Commander	2 rings ; 1 plain and the upper one an Austrian knot.
{ Platoon Commander	1 ring, with Austrian knot.
{ Quartermaster	1 ring, with Austrian knot.

Non-Commissioned Officers.

Sergeant-major - - -	4 plain rings.
Quartermaster-sergeant - - -	3 plain rings.
Section commanders, ranking as sergeant	2 plain rings.
Section commanders, ranking as corporal or lance-corporal - - -	1 plain ring.

The braid used for the rings should be narrow and of any suitable colour.

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It is pointed out that the corresponding Army rank is only given for purposes of information, such Army rank must not under any circumstances be used by V.T.C. officers, nor must badges of rank other than the rings and Austrian knot, as laid down by the C.A.V.T.C., be worn.

It has been decided to work very much on the old volunteer system prevailing before the Territorial Force came into existence. Under this system the independent companies all over the country will be linked up in battalions, and these battalions will be parts of regiments. Once the various regiments are formed, we shall then be able to brigade them together to work in the larger military formations, and to take part in the practice of grand tactics.

CHAPTER VI

SOME HINTS CONCERNING MUSKETRY

IN the *Morning Post* of November 11, 1914, it was said, "No troops should be sent to the field unless they have had some training in shooting," and it further stated: "By good shooting battles are won." The latter is a very valuable truism, and the former applies equally to the vast army of men now being trained to defend their homes, as it does to the "fighting-line" units who have gone or are going out to take their place in the ranks of the Expeditionary Force in Flanders.

Soldiers may be well drilled, well disciplined, and manœuvre perfectly, but all their training will be thrown away unless they are good marksmen into the bargain.

Here we come to one of the greatest difficulties with which an officer commanding a volunteer battalion is faced—the impossibility of finding facilities for his men to fire with the service rifle and service ammunition on an

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open range. He has, therefore, to content himself, at any rate for the present, with training them as marksmen with the miniature rifle.

At this stage I would point out how important it is that men should not be allowed to go straight to the miniature rifle-range and commence firing without adequate preliminary instruction.

It is not my wish to deny or deprecate the value of rifle-shooting on miniature ranges, but I must point out that such practise can only be considered shooting in its most elementary stages, for even the grouping, application, and snap-shooting practice on the open range with service ammunition can only be regarded as stepping-stones to the real training for war, which is learned in the "field practices," nor must it be thought that effective shooting consists merely of loading, aiming, and firing the rifle, for it must be realized that, to be an *effective* marksman, the soldier must attain a high rate of accurate fire delivery; he must know how to utilize to the best advantage natural cover, and to handle his rifle readily either behind such cover or in the open. He must, moreover, be able to judge distances accurately, and to correct fire errors in his rifle or which are caused through atmospheric conditions; but it

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is, of course, pointed out that the higher the standard of proficiency to which a man attains on the miniature range, and at range practices in general, the greater, all things considered, will be his efficiency at field practices, and at what may aptly be termed "active service shooting" in general.

No man, however, should run away with the idea, because he is a good shot on the range under all circumstances, that he will be a good shot when in action, with the foemen's bullets singing around him. In point of fact, if the scores on the range in peace time are averaged and divided by 20 (some Continental authorities put the figure as high as 70), the resulting figures will about represent the percentage of hits in the course of an actual engagement with the enemy.

It will, of course, be readily realized that it is impossible to set out a complete system or syllabus of musketry instruction in the space of this little book. I therefore only offer such hints as I think may be useful to the volunteer, and for the complete army system I will refer him to "Musketry Regulations," Part I., 1909 (6d.); Part II. "Rifle Ranges and Musketry Appliances," (4d.); Amendments to Parts I. and II., April, 1911 (reprint, 1914).

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The following firing details will be of interest, and should be carefully studied :

DETAILS FOR FIRING.

1. A range officer's orderly, target - man, spotter, and ammunition-server, will be detailed for duty at the firing-point before the practice commences.

2. All rifles used for firing will be examined by the range officer before and at the close of each practice.

3. Rifles used for firing will be grounded, with breeches open, and muzzles pointing down the range, and on no account whatever will a rifle be pointed in any other direction throughout the practice.

4. In the case of a miss-fire, jammed cartridge, blow-back, or any other irregularity, the man affected will immediately ground arms and draw the attention of the range officer to the matter, who will deal with the case as the occasion requires.

5. The men to fire will be paraded at the firing-point in squads of four; they will be inspected by the range officer, served with ammunition, and directed from what position they are to fire. On reaching their allotted positions they will stand at ease with their backs to the butt, and await the order to "Commence fire," when they will assume the required position and carry on the practice. Rifles will on no account be touched until the order to "Commence fire" has been given.

6. A shrill blast on the whistle will denote "Cease fire."

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7. On the "Cease fire" being ordered, men who are firing will, if loaded, at once unload, ground arms, and stand at ease with their backs to the butt.

* 8. No man will proceed to the butt at any time unless he receives a direct and positive order from the range officer to do so.

9. No ammunition will be brought to the range, nor will any be taken away. Any rounds not fired will be handed back to the ammunition-server.

10. As the safety of the men will depend upon the observance of the above rules and implicit obedience to all orders given at the firing-point, all men attending for firing will be required to make themselves conversant with the rules before proceeding to the firing-point. Ignorance of the rules will in no case be accepted as an excuse for their non-observance.

For service shooting it should always be remembered to take a full sight and aim at the lowest part of the object.

Because—

1. The rifle is tested under these conditions before leaving the works where it is made.

2. Rapid aim is easier.

3. A fuller view of the target is obtained.

4. There is less likelihood of varying the amount of foresight.

* On open ranges all persons not actually engaged at the firing-point will be 30 yards in rear of it, and should be employed on distance judging, description of ground, visual training, etc.

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5. Men in moments of battle excitement almost invariably fire high.

Terms which are frequently heard applied, but which are somewhat confusing to the novice are: "E.B.Z."—that is to say, "Effectively beaten zone"—"Nucleus zone," and "Beaten zone."

Now, when a number of bullets are fired at a vertical target, they strike in such a manner as to form an elliptical pattern; by projection of the trajectories on to a horizontal plane an elliptical pattern is again made, but with the longer axis far greater than the shorter; this is the *Beaten Zone*. That portion of the Beaten Zone which is beaten by the 75 per cent. best shots is called the *Effectively Beaten Zone*.

Finally, about the point at which the sights are set the shots are most densely grouped. This grouping is usually reckoned at 50 per cent., and is called the "Nucleus of the Zone."

The following table and diagram will be of interest:

EFFECTIVELY BEATEN ZONE.

	Range 500 Yards.	Range 1,000 Yards.	Range 1,500 Yards.
Mark VI. depth - -	220 yards	120 yards	100 yards
Mark VII. depth - -	330 yards	180 yards	150 yards
Breadth (both same)	7 feet	14 feet	22 feet

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Two other matters of great interest are allowances to be made and also windage. As to the former one should always aim ahead of a moving object as follows :

- 1 foot for each 100 yards of distance at a man walking.
- 2 feet for each 100 yards of distance at a man running.
- 3 feet for each 100 yards of distance at a horse trotting.
- 4 feet for each 100 yards of distance at a horse galloping.

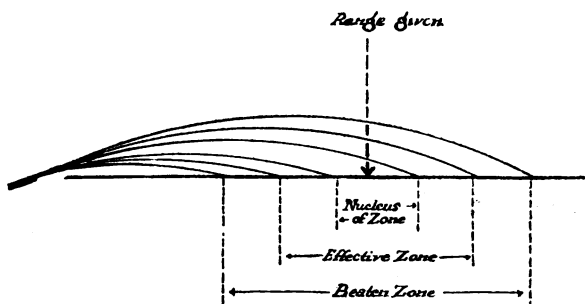


FIG. 10.

As to windage, the new service rifle is fitted with a wind-gauge, but this is in practice only allowed to be set once, after which the soldier corrects by "aiming off"—that is to say, by firing to the side of the target from which the wind is blowing, but at the correct elevation.

Winds may be classified in three groups :

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1. *Light breeze*, when the range flag is not fully extended (see Fig. 11). This equals about ten miles an hour.

2. *Medium or fresh wind*, which blows at a steady twenty miles per hour, and which causes the range flag to stand straight out from the pole in a constant position (Fig. 12).

3. *Strong wind*, blowing at thirty miles per hour or over, and which causes the range flag to fly with the tip of the pennon uplifted, and the halliards snapping and crackling against the mast (Fig. 13).



FIG. 11.

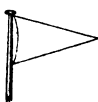


FIG. 12.

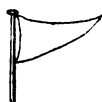


FIG. 13.

Allowances for aiming off to counteract wind effects should be as follows :

	Range 500 Yards.	Range 1,000 Yards.	Range 1,500 Yards.
Light wind . . .	2 feet	3½ feet	5 feet
Medium wind . . .	9 feet	18 feet	27 feet
Strong wind . . .	18 feet	36 feet	54 feet

It will be readily understood how important it is that men should become thoroughly pro-

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ficient in distance judging, or, to put it more comprehensively, in "ranging." There are a number of methods of ranging, but those most generally used are—

Distance judging by eye.

Distance judging by strike of the bullets.

Distance judging by sound and flash.

Distance judging by forward and backward reckoning.

Distance judging with instruments.

As this work is of the greatest importance to the Volunteer, let us examine the methods separately.

DISTANCE JUDGING BY EYE is a matter of the most sedulous practice. It may be subdivided under three heads :

By unit of measure—that is to say, men should learn to know a standard unit of measure, such as 100 yards, and be able to apply it to the range required under all conditions.

By the detail of uniform, etc., which the figure or object exhibits. This becomes a matter of recognition after constant practice.

By the apparent size of the object. This method is known also as judging by the visual angle—that is to say, the angle subtended from the eye to the object. In this connection it may be pointed out that the visual angle may be helped by the foresight on the rifle, and it will be useful

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to the reader to know that at 200 yards the Barleycorn sight, when the rifle is held in the aiming position, covers a man in the prone position at 200 yards, kneeling at 300 yards, and standing at 600 yards.

By the Strike of the Bullets.—This method is “fire observation” pure and simple. It is very advantageous, as no errors caused through atmospheric conditions can crop up; but, on the other hand, the ground on which the bullets fall must be suitable, or their strike will not be observed.

By Sound and Flash.—To use this method the soldier must be taught to count 11 beats per second; this equals 100 yards of range per beat, because sound travels of the rate of 1,100 feet per second.

The beats are counted from the observation of a flash to the audition of sound.

FORWARD AND BACK RECKONING, as its title indicates, merely consists of counting the paces taken from some known object.

RANGE-FINDING INSTRUMENTS, such as the mekometer or Marindin range-finder.

The “Thumb” Method should also be mentioned. The soldier sights his thumb at arm’s length on to the object just as if the thumb were the foresight of his rifle; he then shuts

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the aiming eye and opens the other, and he then judges how much the thumb appears to have shifted right or left of the object. This distance he then multiplies by a factor, which is determined by the length of his arm and width between the eyes.

To ascertain the factor by which to multiply, stand facing a wall on which a bull's-eye is marked, stretch out the arm and align the thumb with the bull, close the aiming eye and open the other, get someone to mark the exact spot on the wall your thumb now appears to cover. Measure the distance these two marks are apart and the distance you are standing from the wall; divide the former with the latter, and you have got the multiplying factor.

All faults must be firmly checked at the outset of a musketry course; therefore the recruit must not—

1. Have his eye too close to the cocking-piece.
2. Be afraid of the recoil.
3. Put his finger round the trigger until he has assumed the aiming position.
4. Fail to grip the rifle firmly in both hands when firing.
5. Neglect to press the butt of the rifle against the shoulder and keep it steady.

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6. Incline either his head or the sights sideways when firing.

Pending the time when the volunteers obtain rifles and can get the use of proper open ranges, they should be taught all about the weapon and given plenty of aiming practice, etc.

They should be taught—

1. Military terms, in order that they may describe what they see.

2. Effect of light and similarity between target and background.

3. To observe the country passed through on the line of march.

4. To examine with and without field-glasses an area of ground.

5. To pick out moving and stationary objects that would come within the field of fire from a given position.

6. Trigger pressing.

7. The firing positions.

8. Taking cover.

This chapter must be read, as it is written, merely as a collection of small points about musketry which will set the novice thinking, and will encourage him to delve more deeply into the textbooks dealing fully and in detail with this most important matter.

APPENDIX I

THE following books, which are Government publications, are necessary to all officers and N.C.Os., but those marked with an asterisk are required by officers only.

* King's Regulations.

* Manual of Military Law.

Field Service Regulations, Part I. (Operations). Reprint, 1912.

* Field Service Regulations, Part II. (Organization and Administration). Reprint, 1913.

Field Service Manuals for own Service.

Departmental Manuals for own Service.

Ceremonial.

* Field Service Pocket-Book.

* War Establishments, Part I. (Expeditionary Force). 1914. On this are modelled the V.T.C.

* Manual of Map Reading and Field Sketching, 1912.

Manual of Field Engineering. 1911.

Manual of Elementary Military Hygiene.

Musketry Regulations, Parts I. and II. Reprint, 1914.

The following books are not necessary, but are strongly recommended, those marked thus † being particularly suitable for the men themselves and of the greatest interest to them. It

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will doubtless be remarked that some of the books recommended are not technical works, but I have included them in the list as being likely to engender a soldierly spirit and teach the rank and file in an interesting manner.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Author.</i>	<i>Publisher.</i>
Staff Rides and Regimental Tours (6s.).	Brig.-Gen. R. C. Haking.	Hugh Rees, Ltd.
†The Tactics of Home Defence (3s. 6d.).	Col. Callwell.	William Blackwood.
†The Green Curve (1s.).	Ole Luk-Oie.	William Blackwood.
The Handbook for Company Officers (1s. 6d.).	—	Harrison and Sons.
†Military History.	J. W. Fortescue.	Cambridge University Press.
†First Lesson in War (1s.).	Spenser Wilkinson.	Methuen.
Cyclists in Action (1s.).	Capt. A. H. Trapmann.	Foster Groom.
Handbook of Promotion Examinations (2s.).	Capt. W. D. Allan.	Oliver and Boyd.
Rifle Training for War.	E. H. Robinson.	Cassell and Co.
†The New Company Drill at a Glance (6d.).	Lieut. M. G. Monk.	Upcott Gill.
†Recruits' Problems Solved (3d.).	Platoon Commander J. Vincent Donovan.	William Dawson and Sons.
†Imperial Army Series (1s. each).	—	John Murray.
†Notes on Elementary Field Training (1s.).	"Grenadier."	Hugh Rees, Ltd.

*For particulars of other
books by
Mr. F. A. M. WEBSTER
see the following pages.*

BRITAIN IN ARMS

By F. A. M. WEBSTER

Crown 8vo. Cloth, 2s. net. Paper, 1s. net

A most useful book of reference to all those who are interested in our Army, telling as it does in bright incident and stirring narrative the history of the regiments of the British Army. Nor does it end there, for it deals exhaustively with the thousand-and-one little details about a soldier which are so puzzling to the new recruit and the civilian. Such matters as mottoes, nicknames, pay, honours, regimental traditions, and one subject which is of particular interest to the householder just now—*i.e.*, billeting.

" . . . Very interesting reading it makes. It is well that we should become more closely acquainted with all that concerns the British Army, and one can learn much from this book. . . ."—*Referee*.

" . . . Crammed with facts about the military forces of the British Empire, particularly useful at the present time. . . ."—*Scotsman*.

" A book which every student of the war and every Briton should read with the keenest interest, even almost to the point of memorizing, is Mr. F. A. M. Webster's ' Britain in Arms.' Here is a work of the utmost value, and a little book which should be on the shelf of every library, for it tells one, not in dry tables, but in bright narrative, all there is to know about our Army, while there are most fascinating details concerning guns and equipment, down even to a complete index of regimental badges. There is, in addition, a short note concerning the origin and history of each regiment, together with the names of officers who have won distinction. . . ."—*Daily Graphic*.

FROM RECRUIT TO FIRING LINE

By F. A. M. WEBSTER

Crown 8vo. Cloth, 2s. net. Paper, 1s. net

This book is the companion volume to "Britain in Arms," and deals intimately with the life of a soldier from the time he passes the sentry at the gate of the barracks to take the Oath of Allegiance, until the time when he passes out again in latest civilian clothing, with his discharge in his pocket.

It tells not only of the hardships and sorrows of soldiering in peace and war, but also of the joys and advantages the Army offers to a keen young man. Moreover, it is all told in such a racy, interesting manner that one reads it through from cover to cover without realizing that one is not reading a novel, but is imbibing information of the most useful kind.

"Traces the progress of the recruit from the days of his enlistment until he is a fully-trained soldier. . . ."—*Scotsman*.

"A useful new war book much to the point at the moment. . . . Mr. Webster tells the story of a day in the life of a soldier in a fashion that is at once instructive and easy to read. . . ."—*Daily Graphic*.

"This is an account of the making of a soldier, and should be read by civilians, who ought to know what a soldier's life means. The second part (pp. 167-208) deals with war. We have found it extremely interesting, and to most civilians it will be a revelation. Mr. Webster has already given us an excellent little book of reference, 'Britain in Arms.'"—*Graphic*.

"A singularly exact and graphic account of the training of the recruit, and of learning the business of cavalry, infantry, Royal Engineers, cycle corps, signalling, machine-gun practice, etc., barrack life, manœuvres, and bivouacs, and other matters; with a final section on actual war."—*Times*.

BRITAIN'S TERRITORIALS

IN PEACE AND WAR

By F. A. M. WEBSTER

Crown 8vo., designed cover, 1s. net ; in cloth, 2s. net

This book covers every phase of the Territorial Service, the history of the auxiliary forces from before the Norman Conquest right up to the present time—to-day, when the eyes of the whole world are fixed in amazement on these wonderful civilian soldiers, who come from University, office, factory, or plough, singing, "Here we are, here we are, here we are again!" as they tramp forward through months of arduous training to take their place in the firing-line side by side with their comrades of the regular army, whose affection and respect they have so nobly earned and justly merited.

The book ends with a chapter on "Things the Territorials should know," in which all sorts of out-of-the-way matters, from bridge-building to driving and slaughtering cattle, are dealt with, and the text illustrated with most interesting diagrams and sketches. Finding the way by the stars, map-reading, and siting trenches, all find place in this excellent book.

"Mr. F. A. M. Webster has done a public service in compiling in a small popular book the history of 'Britain's Territorials in Peace and War.'"—*Daily Citizen*.

THE RAVING! A Ballad of Berlin. Written
and Illustrated by ERIC STONE. 6d. net.

A brilliant Parody of Edgar Allan Poe's poem, "The Raven."

"The measure and method are due to Poe's ballad of 'The Raven,' but the lines are inspired by the imperial ruler who, so to speak, might have stopped the war before it commenced. Extremely clever sketches illustrate the lines on every page."—*The Scotsman*.

BRITAIN'S RECORD: What she has Done
for the World. By E. KEBLE CHATTERTON,
Author of "Sailing Ships and their Story."
Small demy 8vo., illustrated, 2s. 6d. net.

This timely re-issue at a cheap price of "a concise and clear account of the indebtedness of the world to Britain" (*Westminster Gazette*) will appeal to all who wish to understand English culture.

"AND THEY WENT TO THE WAR."
By J. A. NICKLIN. Crown 8vo., sewn, 6d. net.

A little collection of war poems by the author of "Nunc Dimittis."

PRIDE OF WAR. By GUSTAF JANSON.
Translated from the Swedish "Lögnerna."
Crown 8vo., 6s. Second Impression.

Seven stories of the Turco-Italian War in Tripoli, very graphically written.

"One of the most brilliant battle books ever written. . . . Should be read by all interested in the problems of modern warfare."—*Eye-Witness*.

THE INVISIBLE EVENT

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